

Lewis S. Mudge.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPDON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

September 14, 1928.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX.

Dear Brethren:

Immediately upon the adjournment of our meeting today Friday, September 14th, I called President Stevenson on the telephone at Princeton. He informs me that the opening service of the Seminary is appointed for Wednesday morning, September 26th, at 11 o'clock. This, of course, makes it impossible to carry out our plan of conference with the Faculty. We can, however, hold our meetings as planned on Wednesday, September 26th, provided it seems wise to the members of the Group to arrange our sessions as follows:

10.15	Group Meeting
11.30	Conference with Trustees
2.50	Conference with Faculty

If In the judgment of the members of our group, is it so important that we should meet the Faculty before meeting the Trustees ~~we~~ we must transfer our visit to Princeton, let us say to the following day, namely, September 27th, with the following as the arrangements for the day:

10.15	Group Meeting
11.30	Faculty Meeting
2.50	Trustee Meeting

Please wire me collect your judgment in this matter.

With kind regards, believe me

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Mudge
Lewis S. Mudge
Secretary

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

September 15, 1928

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX.

Dear Brethren:

Telegraphic responses to my request for advice as to whether our next meeting shall be called for Wednesday September 26th or Thursday September 27th, make it clear that Thursday September 27th, is the date preferred. We will, therefore, assemble in the Old Oratory Alexander Hall at 10:15 Daylight Saving Time Thursday morning September 27th. I am arranging for a conference with the faculty at 11:30 and with the trustees at 2:30.

With kind regards, believe me

Yours sincerely,

Lewis S. Mudge
Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

September 17, 1928

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX.

Dear Brethren:

At the meeting of our Group held on Friday, September 14th, the following resolution was passed:

"On motion of Dr. Laird, seconded by Dr. Speer, Dr. Mudge was requested to prepare for use at a proposed conference with the Officers of the Board of Trustees and selected members thereof the outline of a possible plan for one Board control, emphasizing particularly that the membership of the proposed Board should be composed of the members of the two existing Boards and that to this end as a temporary measure, at least, others than ordained men should be eligible to membership thereof."

In accordance with this request, I am transmitting herewith to each of you a copy of the revised Charter and the revised Plan of the Seminary as contained in the report of the Special Committee of Eleven to the 1928 General Assembly, with such suggestions with reference to amendments thereto as seem worthy of consideration by our Group.

The amendments which I am suggesting to the amended Charter, I am offering after a telephone conversation with Dr. Laird, the only member of our Group available for consultation.

The amendments offered to the revised Plan of the Seminary are those and only those which were agreed upon as well worthy of consideration at the Group conference held on July 14th last, at which the following were present, Drs. McEwan, Laird, Speer and Mudge.

That all possible time may be saved for other use at the meeting of our Group appointed for Thursday, September 27th next, will you not each be so kind as to examine critically what is herewith submitted to you and transmit to me as soon as possible your suggestions.

With every good wish, believe me

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Mudge
Lewis S. Mudge
Group Secretary

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

September 17, 1928.

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX.

Dear Brethren:

Enclosed please find a record of our meeting held on
September 14. Please be kind enough to indicate to your
Secretary any additions or corrections.

With kind regards, believe me

Yours sincerely,

Lewis S. Mudge
Lewis S. Mudge
Group Secretary.

Sylvester W. Beach

SYLVESTER W. BEACH, D.D.
SECRETARY

RECEIVED

SEP 19 1928

Mr. Speer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U. S. A.
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

September 17, 1928

Rev. Robert E. Speer, D.D.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

The Secretary of the Board of Directors has received the following communication from the Secretary of the "Peace Group":

"General Office
514 Witherspoon Bldg.
Philadelphia, Pa.

September 15, 1928

Rev. Sylvester W. Beach, D.D.,
Secretary, Board of Directors,
Princeton Theological Seminary,
Princeton, N.J.

My dear Dr. Beach:

The Group of Six held a meeting yesterday. At this meeting I was directed as its Secretary to bring to your attention two matters.

Item I. I have just wired you as follows:

"GROUP OF SIX AT ITS MEETING YESTERDAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION SECRETARY OF THE GROUP WAS REQUESTED THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD APPOINTED TO MAKE NOMINATIONS FOR VACANCIES IN THE FACULTY TO THE URGENT NEED OF FILLING AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT THE CHAIRS VACANT IN THE SEMINARY AND THAT IF SATISFACTORY NOMINATIONS BE POSSIBLE THEY SHOULD BE PRESENTED AT THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE BOARD STOP PLEASE WIRE THIS RESOLUTION TO EACH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REFERRED TO KINDEST REGARDS."

Item II. The Group took the following action on motion of Dr. Speer, seconded by Dr. Finney, "The Secretary was requested to write to the Secretary of the Board of Directors asking that letters received by him germane to the work of the Group should be transmitted to all the members of the Group

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and especially letters received from the Board of Directors and the Faculty in response to the request of June 7th from the Board of Directors for signatures to the statement then issued."

Yours sincerely,

Lewis S. Mudge
Group Secretary"

Accordingly, the Secretary of the Board wired at once the telegram, Item I, to the Chairmen of the respective committees on vacancies in the Chairs.

In compliance with Item II, the Secretary is now sending the information called for thereby to each member of the Peace Group.

First, to date twenty-one members of the Board of Directors have returned to the Secretary the formula for subscription adopted by the Board at the meeting June 20th with their signatures. They are as follows:

Burrell	Brank
McEwan	Maneon
Hutchison	Patton
Mudge	Speer
Steveneon (Frank)	Browneon
Laird	Dickson
Bruce	Finney
Nichols	Robineon
Hodge	Morgan
Alexander (George)	Beach
Radcliffe	

Of the remaining eight members, (there being one vacancy in the Board owing to the resignation of Elieha H. Perkins, the successor to whom has not yet been elected), Dr. Maitland Alexander has stated to the Secretary his purpose to sign the formula while six of the remaining number have made no reply probably owing to inadvertence or absence on vacation.

The following letter has been received from Rev. Samuel G. Craig, D.D.:

"Southwest Harbor, Maine

Dear Dr. Beach:

The minutes of the meeting of our Board of Directors on June 20th have been forwarded to me here, together with copy of the statement the Directors are asked to sign, all accompanied by an explanatory paragraph in the form of a letter from you as secretary of the Board.

3.

The occasion of my writing is that it does not seem to me that this submits the statement to the Directors in harmony with the action of the Board as recorded on page 10 of the minutes as prepared and sent. According to that action an addendum was to be attached to the resolution embodying the resolution but such an addendum is lacking in the copy sent me. It does not seem to me that the explanatory paragraph in your accompanying letter meets the requirements of the case, apart from the fact that it does not seem altogether satisfactory to me. As I understood the matter the addendum was to be affixed to and constitute a part of the statement to be signed. It was with that understanding that I refrained from voting against the resolutions and unless an addendum that considerably modifies the obvious meaning of the statement in itself considered is attached I do not see how it can be expected that all members of the Directors (and Faculty) can be expected to sign it. May I inquire if it was an oversight that I received a copy with no addendum attached?

With all good wishes I am

Very sincerely yours,

Samuel G. Craig

July 6, 1928"

The following letter has been received from Dr. Speer:

"156 Fifth Avenue
New York

July 19, 1928

Rev. Sylvester W. Beach, D.D.,
Princeton, New Jersey

My dear Sylvester:

I have been meaning to write to you with reference to the minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Seminary to ask whether there is not some mistake as to the form of Dr. McCartney's motion reported on the last page.

but
I was out at the time Dr. McCartney made the motion/when I returned I understood that it was simply a request that I should prepare the explanatory statement which I did prepare and submit to you and Dr. McEwan. I did not understand that I was appointed to communicate to the Faculty the explanation of the resolution which was adopted by the Board. My understanding was that that was your duty as Secretary of the Board and that my responsibility was simply to prepare the explanatory statement. Is this not correct?

Ever affectionately yours,

RES/B

Robert E. Speer."

4.

The following from Dr. McEwan:

"Third Presbyterian Church
Pittsburgh, Pa.

July 10, 1928

Rev. Sylvester W. Beach, D.D.
Princeton, N.J.

My dear Dr. Beach:

I return to you herewith the statement sent by you with my signature attached. I am quite sure that those who were not present at the meeting of the Committee where this statement was agreed upon, would sign it without hesitation if they knew the purpose of it, the way in which it was agreed upon, and the spirit in which the Committee worked together. It seemed to us to be the first step toward the solution of our present problem. While we knew the difficulties that would present themselves, and the possible misunderstanding of its purport and form, every Member of the Committee was willing to adopt it and sign it.

I hope you will have a pleasant summer.

Your friend truly,

Wm. L. McEwan"

wlm;arl
enc.

The following from Dr. Radcliffe:

"Rev. Wallace Radcliffe
1675 Thirty-First Street
Washington, D.C.

July 10th

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I enclose the Director statement sent to me, with signature affixed. I do not entirely approve the accompanying statement as too limited and suggestively evasive. But it is a good beginning, although much still remains to be done. I trust there will be no Directors Meeting called before October when we can have a full meeting and the special committee can have time for mutual discussion and formal recommendations.

My delay in answering has been caused by serious trouble at home. Mrs. Radcliffe has been ill, and finally taken to the hospital for throat operation which gave us great anxiety and fear. She has steadily improved and has now been brought back home. I was at the hospital nearly all the time and everything

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else had to wait. Every prospect now is quick return to health and vigor. I trust you will have a good summer.

With all good wishes to you and yours,

Sincerely,

Wallace Radcliffe"

And the following from Dr. Finney:

"Little Fish Island
Chester, Nova Scotia

July 14, 1928

My dear Dr. Beach:

The enclosed was forwarded to me here where I am spending my vacation.

I am very glad to sign the statement, which I am enclosing (signed) in this letter.

Very truly yours,

J. M. T. Finney"

And the following from Dr. Patton:

"Bermuda, July 28, 1928

Dear Dr. Beach:

I herewith enclose the statement you sent me as the member of the Faculty (see Faculty list in Catalogue) with my signature. I doubt my right to sign and shall not be offended if the Faculty challenge it. If however they so regard me, I very cheerfully comply with your request.

The statement to be signed as a Director I have somehow mislaid, but I sign it very cheerfully or rather authorize you to affix my signature.

Very sincerely yours,

Francis L. Patton"

(Dr. Patton subsequently found the paper and returned it to the Secretary with his signature.

S. W. B.)

Under date of July 16th Dr. Patton wrote the Secretary a more lengthy letter a copy of which the Secretary sent to Dr. McEwan, a personal, intimate friend of Dr. Patton. As the letter

6.

is evidently intended to be personal and confidential, the Secretary does not feel at liberty to give any further publicity to it without the consent of the writer.

Mr. J. Williston Smith, elected to the Board last May to succeed Mr. Hinman, resigned, stated to the Secretary at the close of the meeting June 20 that he would not sign the formula for the reason that he had just become a member of the Board and had no connection with the past. He expressed himself as pleased with the action of the Board.

Secondly, as to the Faculty,

Four members have signed the formula, viz.,

Loetscher
Vos
Smith
Patton.

The following letters have been received from members of the Faculty:

Dr. Vos writes as follows:

"Roaring Branch, Lycoming Co., Pa.
July 13, 1928

My dear Dr. Beach:

I herewith return to you (signed) the resolution of the Board of Directors. In signing it I took into consideration, that the phrasing of the statement had to be a more or less indefinite one, in order to make it suitable for every part and angle of what has grown to be a complicated case. My difficulty (for I admit there was a little) was not so much a personal, but rather a conscientious one. I am quite willing to confess my faults and mistakes and sins, for I should have told myself from the beginning that it would be difficult for me to live through, and take part, in such a long-drawn out disagreement without falling into many things my conscience would in calmer moments tell me were wrong. But after all such matters are to be settled between God and the conscience first, and it is surely in that relationship that the existence and nature and extent of the wrong should be brought to clearness, and repentance with expression of regret to our fellows be put into effect. It would be quite inconceivable that regret and retraction in the technically-religious sense should ever be placed on the basis of what has seemed to others to be the wrong in us. This does not alter the fact that perhaps, (materially considered) the things to be repented of or regretted or apologies made for might to a large extent coincide with the feeling of injury caused by them in others; only a true Christian repentance can cover only what conscience bears

witness to as having been wrong. No brother's feeling, if I am right in my interpretation of Protestant ethics, can ever be made to underlie this process between God and the soul. I do not wish you to understand, however, that I sign the document otherwise than ex animo. I do not practice any mental reservations.

The statements of yours accompanying the resolution have considerably relieved me in the matter mentioned, and I am grateful to you personally for these.

For the rest, the Directors and my colleagues will, I can assure you, find me most peacefully inclined, forgivingly disposed, and ready to do what I can to render the present action successful.

Yours sincerely,

Geerhardus Vos."

Dr. Armstrong has written as follows:

"Orillia, Ont., Canada
July 18, 1928

Dear Dr. Beach:

I have your letter transmitting the action of the Board of Directors relative to the members of the Faculty which was taken at the meeting of the Board on June 20th.

The matter thus brought to my attention seems to me to require careful consideration.

I shall, therefore, for the present, simply acknowledge the receipt of your letter and shall hope to send a formal reply to the Board's communication prior to the regular meeting of the Board in October.

Yours very truly,

W. B. Armstrong."

Rev. Sylvester W. Beach, D.D.
Secretary Board of Directors
Princeton Theological Seminary.

The following from Dr. Allis:

"The Princeton Theological Review
Princeton, N.J.
July 12, 1928

Rev. Sylvester W. Beach, D.D.,
Secretary of the Board of Directors
of Princeton Theological Seminary,
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Beach:

8.

Your letter conveying to me the action of the Board of Directors with regard to the "statement" which the Faculty are requested to sign was duly received. I have read it with care and will write to you later with regard to it. In the meantime I am writing this letter to tell you that your letter reached me safely and to thank you for it.

Sincerely yours,

Oswald T. Allis."

The following from Mr. F. D. Jenkins:

"F. D. Jenkins
Princeton, N.J.

July 5, 1928

Rev. Sylvester W. Beach,
Princeton,
New Jersey.

My dear Sir:

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the communication sent to the Faculty from the Board of Directors.

Yours respectfully,

F. D. Jenkins."

And the following from Dr. Greene:

"Newport, R. I.
July 4th

Sylvester W. Beach, D.D.,
Secretary

Dear Dr. Beach:

I have received the copy of the statement which the Board of Directors is asking each member of the Faculty to sign and I thank you for it.

Sincerely yours,

W. Brenton Greene, Jr."

And the following from Dr. Erdman:

"The Theological Seminary
Princeton, N.J.

September 7, 1928

The Rev. Sylvester W. Beach, D.D.,
Secretary of the Board of Directors,
Princeton Theological Seminary,
Princeton, N.J.

My dear Dr. Beach:-

In reference to your letter, written me at the request of the Directors, it is a pleasure to assure you that I shall continue to seek for "peace and harmony and concord in the work of the Seminary."

As to the particular paragraph you ask me to sign, relative to the withdrawal of statements which may have been made, allow me to say that, while I approve heartily of its purpose, it is in my judgment at once too restricted and too indefinite to secure the desired end.

Each member of the Faculty should be requested to express confidence in the sincerity and zeal of his colleagues as teachers and defenders of the Christian faith.

The Faculty has been needlessly divided by unfounded suspicion in this regard. Such suspicion still exists. This is evidenced by the charges against members of the Faculty published within the year by Professor Machen and Professor Wilson.

According to these and other widely circulated statements, the trouble at Princeton is related to doctrine. According to the report of the Princeton Committee adopted by the General Assembly, the trouble is not doctrinal but personal and administrative. I feel constrained to stand by the action of the Assembly.

Nevertheless, as the Directors believe that it will make for peace, I shall be willing to sign the proposed paper on fulfillment of the following conditions:

First. That the charges to which reference has been made be withdrawn, as requested by the Directors.

Second. That every member of the Faculty will affirm of all the other members that he trusts not only their loyalty to our Presbyterian Standards, but also their desire and determination to maintain the historic, conservative, doctrinal position of Princeton Seminary.

Third. That every member of the Faculty will pledge his personal support to the Missionary Boards and other Agencies of our Church.

These conditions are designed to secure such loyalty to one another and to the Church as will promise for the Seminary that peace and welfare which, within the limits of my power, I hereby pledge myself to promote.

Yours faithfully,

Charles R. Erdman."

And the following from President Stevenson:

The Theological Seminary
Princeton, New Jersey

September 6, 1928.

My dear Dr. Beach:-

In reply to the communication sent by the Board of Directors through you as Secretary, let me say that I am in wholehearted accord with the endeavor "to remove causes of offense and to begin a new era of peace and harmony in our common work." With this end in view I note that the statement to which Directors and Faculty members are requested to affix their signature is a move in the right direction.

I am willing by my signature to further this move, provided the necessary steps are taken to ensure that adjustment of "differences" which the Directors are under the mandate of the General Assembly to effect.

As I understand the situation in the Seminary, further necessary steps to "maintain peace and harmony and concord in our personal and official relations in the work of the Seminary" are the following:

1. Approval of the Report of the Commission of 1925 regarding the present spiritual condition of our Church, the causes of unrest, and the conditions necessary to the purity, peace, unity and progress of the Church, as adopted by the Assemblies of 1926 and 1927.

2. Loyal support of the Assembly's Boards and Agencies, particularly those with which Directors, Trustees and Faculty members are officially connected, and for the service of which The Seminary is to train a ministry that will be sympathetic and cooperative.

3. Endorsement of the enterprises of the Presbyterian Church as approved by the General Assembly, including the evangelistic, missionary and educational work of our Church at home and abroad, and the program of unite service to which the Presbyterian Church has been committed by the instructions of the General Assembly to its Department of Church Cooperation and Union.

4. Recognition of the loyalty of every Director and of every member of the Faculty to the vows of allegiance and service enjoined by the Assembly's plan for the Seminary according to which everyone officially connected with the institution stand on the same doctrinal platform - so that the line of division which has been drawn in the Faculty, in the Board of Directors, and as a consequence in the student body and Alumni shall be obliterated.

5. Compliance with the recommendation of the Special Committee approved by the General Assembly of 1927 for the establishment of a single Board of Control.

These conditions I hold to be essential to the realization of the purpose contemplated by the statement which Directors and Faculty members are asked to sign.

Very sincerely yours,

J. Ross Stevenson.

11.

Dr. Robert Dick Wilson returned the formula to the Secretary without his signature. He afterwards stated to the Secretary that he intended to return the formula signed but by an inadvertence had failed to do so.

Other members of the Faculty have given formal oral acknowledgment of the receipt of the formula, but, as yet, are not prepared to sign their names.

Dr. Maitland Alexander in sending the Secretary the revised list of Committees, enclosed a letter from Dr. Machen saying only: "I also enclose you Dr. Machen's Letter."

This letter of Dr. Machen is a reconsideration of his formal acceptance of election to the Chair of Apologetics and an expression of desire that his name should be no longer considered. The Secretary has no authority to give publicity to this letter prior to the meeting of the Board October 9 when it will be laid before the Board.

All this correspondence, including also the replies of the Secretary are filed with the Board's papers which are always open to the inspection and use of all members.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

Ernest W. Beach

Secretary

P.S. The Secretary sent notice of the action of the Board June 20 respecting conference with a Committee of the Board of Trustees to both Mr. Synnott, President of the Board and Mr. McDowell, Secretary, and have received courteous acknowledgments from each.

S. W. B.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

SEP 19 1928

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Speer
EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

September 18, 1928

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX.

Dear Brethren:

Your secretary has just received from your chairman, under date of September 17th, the following "Form of Statement" which he has prepared for submission to the members of the Faculty.

"We the undersigned, Members of the Faculty and of the Board of Directors of Princeton Theological Seminary do solemnly state that:

"1. We freely forgive, as we hope to be forgiven, any of our brethren who have misunderstood, criticised, or wronged us. And we ~~humbly~~ ask forgiveness of any whom we have misunderstood, or criticised or wronged.

"2. We promise to refrain in the future from public criticism of our fellow members of the Faculty or of ~~any~~ officer of the ~~institution~~ ^{Members} which we love and serve." ^{Board of the Seminary}

"3. We desire to live in peace and brotherly love, and we are ready in honesty and sincerity to strive so to do."

Dr. McEwan's letter states "My wish and I think my understanding is that the Members of the Group should feel the fullest liberty in amending or changing this statement, and that when we meet again the statement with whatever amendments may be agreed upon will become the proposition of the Group."

Please be so kind, therefore, that we may have as much time as possible for other matters when we assemble at Princeton on Thursday September 27th, at 10:15 A. M. to forward directly to Dr. McEwan any amendments you would propose to this "Form of Statement" as forwarded by him.

Yours sincerely,

J. C. M.

Secretary

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, N. J.

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

Sept. 19th 70

My dear Robert:-

Your good letter
has been read with deepest interest.
I am pleased to learn that there
are hopeful signs of agreement as
to a single Board of Control. It has
seemed to me that the one Board idea
is so reasonable and manifestly
practical - that the Directors can have
no ground for opposing it - except
the fear of having to surrender the
present "majority" control.

Representatives of this majority in the
last Assembly sought to have
the action at San Francisco overruled.
and the reports of the Committee
of Eleven rejected. as the plea that
the Directors themselves, having failed
to do their duty, will be able ^{now} to
compose differences. provided the

Assembly give them 'a mandate'
Surely the whole church was led to
believe that the Division under the
authority given them would undertake
in some courageous and straight-
forward way to quell the agitation
which has been going on and put
an end to all strife. If the
minutes of the Board meeting of
June 20th could be published.
It would prove such an exhibition
of duplicity - evasion and lack of
courage - as give little hope for
peace - and make reorganization
an evident necessity. And now
unable as you intimate to compose
their own differences. the Division
on appealing to the Faculty and
the Trustees to help them out.
Dr. Thompson and Dr. McKim would
verify & are sure that in all
approaches to harmony. Dr. Erdman
and I have been ready to go the
second mile - but every expression

I willingly & forgive and forget - and
to start all over again has been met
by the firm refusal to recognize us
as being true to the Reformed faith
and loyal to the conservative traditions
of the Seminary - Judge Fox has
characterized the treatment which I
have received at the hands of faculty
members and directors as outrageous
and slanderous. and while I look
forward with prayerful interest to
the conference arranged for the 24th
I shall be greatly surprised if
Machen and Wilson and Cummings and
Judge express a willingness to withdraw
a single false charge made against
Ordman or myself - or to consent to
any peace plan which does not
mean my elimination from the Presidency
just as Ordman had to be deposed from
the student administration. to satisfy
"the majority."

I am interested in your suggestions
as to nomination - and will have
word with name to suggest when
the committee meet. which will

probably in line with precedent
met just before the directors meeting
at the same time - which would
be a good thing to me. Some time I would
like to give you my experience with
the nominating committee of the
Board - which might convince you
that Prof. Robinson's position in
his pamphlet is the effect that
I have been in suggesting
names for vacancies in the faculty - is
not true. It is not the "group" over-
looking the fact that the differences
in the Serenian - have been increased
by the attempt to fill vacancies -
thereby has been revealed a line
of cleavage in the faculty. The Board &
directors and trustees - to insist
now on electing new professors before
differences are composed - is simply
to invite further controversy -
you will be interested to learn that
in the Curriculum Committee - authorized
to provide instruction in vacant chairs
for this year - a contention arose between
Dr. Crane and myself - at the first
meeting - invitation to members of the
faculty - he suggested that we employ
for the work in paleontology - a Mr. Van Dine

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, N. J.

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

of the Christian Reformed Church - who
graduated three years ago. and has
since studied philosophy in the
universities - and is now pastor of a small
outlet church in Mich. I urged a
continuance of the arrangement with
Dr. Geo. Johnson of Lincoln University -
Dr. Crane yielded reluctantly. and prom-
ised to write to Dr. Johnson. During the
summer he got word that Johnson
does not wish to continue his work
with us. I held that he can be
secured if we see him personally and
make arrangements satisfactory to Dr.
Willard Johnson. Dr. Pns. Dr. Crane
refused to listen and on his own
responsibility. wrote backed by stock-
ers and answering - wrote to Van Dyl.
inquiring whether he would come to
Princeton this year or later. with a view
to his ultimately succeeding Dr. Crane -
to make a long story short. under Crane's
chairman ship - Van Dyl is to take

the work of apologetics this year, and although no assurance has been given by the ^{president} ~~minister~~, as his continuance in the Sem. he will be in our hands - He is a fine scholar, but more or less of a recluse, and trained in a small reactionary denomination - can never have any vital interest in the mission of our Church. as has been lamentably true of D. Vos.

as you may know the chairmanships of
each nominating committee has been
assigned to a member of the majority.
who can be depended upon to strenuously
oppose such names as you have suggested.
I know whereof I speak - When Dr
Said spoke for Thompson's committee
tried to justify the impetuosity with
which motion was elected to the chair
of apologetics. Dr Said spoke in an
impassioned and exaggerated way about
the weakness of the Sem. because of so
many vacancies in the faculty -
where Dr Thompson is quired - on what
principles they proposed to fill
vacancies - by electing any one who
sided with the majority of the faculty -
in whole event - the minority would be
in time eliminated both from the

secretly and the directors - or should the
members be given some fair consideration
in the election of new men - or should men
be elected from the whole who are not
identified with either group - there was
no reply - consequently - or 'champrai'
committee took the ground that per-
sonal organization - no election should
be confirmed by the Assembly - Because
of this - the Board of Directors last year
refrained from electing new professors.
This their understanding is to be like
with the Assembly actual - Even now
definite action was taken at the last
Assembly in the Report of the Com. on
Shool. Serv. which was only meant
that the filling of vacancies in the
secretary must await the settlement
of the question whether a single
Board of Control is to be established.
If such a Board is to be appointed -
it should be left free to reorganize
the society - which being further
embarrassed by new and factious
appointees - Allis is an illustration
of the point in question - He was
elected at a special meeting by a bare
majority - including an illegal vote - that

of Mr. Dickinson - who proved to be
ineligible as a Director - because - not a
ruling elder - and yet he is to be
jointed us to the new board - if we
are fortunate enough to secure such
a board - Well - pardon his long
letter - I wish you might arrange to
be here on the 2nd day - and remain
over for a chat with Erdman and
myself! you will find us responsive
to any thing that bore make for peace.

After what you see and I have
endured and am now enduring - you can
readily infer that we are willing to
pay any price for reconciliation - and
a hint of real Christian fellowship -
as John teaches us - this can only
come - where we walk in the light.

Are we right in thinking that this is
a disposition now not so much to
wash the slate clean - but to hide
the slate - and make no place for
penitence - confession - and a new surrender
to Christ?

affectionately yours

J. Ross Stewart

E. D. Warfield

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Wilson College
Chambersburg, Pa.

September 19, 1928.

RECEIVED

SEP 20 1928

Mr. Speer

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I am returning the letters
which you allowed me to take with me last
week.

I am writing to Dr. Pieters
asking for further information with regard
to Mr. J. H. Meengs whom he recommends.
I think it worth our while to keep in
touch with these promising men, but I am
wondering whether an equal enthusiasm on
the part of some Presbyterians might not
bring to our attention young men of equal
promise in our own church.

I feel very keenly that our
church in its ministry and its membership
is losing the consciousness of its own
historical testimony to the faith of Christ.

With warm friendship,

Very truly yours,

E. D. Warfield

Albertus P. P. P.

WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA
HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

1740 - 1928
DOSKER-HULSWIT PROFESSOR
OF BIBLE AND MISSIONS

September 3rd, 1928.

Mr. R.E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave., New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

Your letter of August 28th has come to hand, with its inquiry concerning the Rev. Winfield Burggraaf.

Mr. Burggraaf graduated from our seminary in 1925, and received a fellowship for post-graduate study, with which he went to Amsterdam. Also pursued some studies in Scotland, I believe. He comes from a ministerial family, his father and an elder brother being in the ministry of our church, while a younger brother is now in our seminary. Before going abroad, he was ordained a minister, upon a call by the Fourth Reformed Church, but that church is not a large one, and has a pastor, so that this was merely in order to give him, in the churches of the Netherlands, the status of an ordained clergyman.

I was not connected with the seminary faculty while he was in the seminary, except as lecturer on Missions. He attended my lectures, but I have no direct knowledge of his academic work beyond that. He is a man with most extraordinary gifts as a pulpit orator, and while in the Netherlands won, if I am rightly informed, a great reputation in that capacity.

While in the seminary, to judge from my own branch and from what others have told me, he was not a close student, depending more upon his naturally quick mind and retentive memory than upon habits of hard study or thorough scholarship. Whether he has learned to be a scholar in the Netherlands, I do not know, except to judge from the very honorable degree the University bestowed upon him.

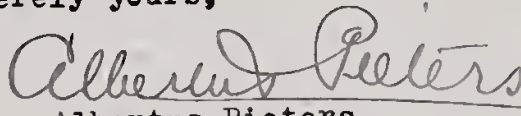
So far as "evangelical fidelity and irenic spirit" are concerned, I think you would find him first-class.

Having now replied to your inquiry, I wonder whether I may take the liberty of directing your attention to another one of our graduates, Mr. John Henry Meengs, who has just received from Hartford Theological Seminary the degree of Ph.D., "magna cum laude". The subject of his thesis was "The Name above Every Name", and it was a study of the application of the term "Kurios" to our Lord Jesus Christ. I read it with the deepest interest, and with profound admiration for the painstaking scholarship it displayed. Full information with regard to him can, of course, be obtained from the faculty of Hartford. This man would seem to me, personally, ~~be~~ more suitable for an instructorship in a seminary than Burggraaf, and I do not feel that I am doing the

latter any injury in making this suggestion, for Burggraaf's very remarkable talents as a public speaker indicate, it seems to me, very plainly, that his happiness and usefulness will be best conserved by his finding a place in the pulpit rather than in the class-room. If you know of any church that desires a young man of this type, ask them to give Burggraaf an opportunity.

Burggraaf's thesis is in print, and may be had from our Board of Publication. That of Meengs is not in print, but I could secure a typewritten copy of it for your perusal if you wish. I think a reading of these two documents will go far to justify a judgment as to the scholarly possibilities of the two men.

Very sincerely yours,


Albertus Pieters.

P.S. As to "evangelical fidelity and irenic spirit", you can make no mistake with John Henry Meengs.

Wm. I. Chamberlain

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA
25 EAST 22ND STREET
NEW YORK

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CABLE ADDRESS: SYNODICAL, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: ASHLAND 1585

SEP 6 - 1928

Mr. Speer

ack. 9/11/28

September 4, 1928

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Robert:

On my return to New York this week I find your letter of enquiry of August 28 which Dr. Potter has acknowledged with comments. I do not happen to know anything personally of Dr. Burggraaff and can therefore add nothing to the information that you have received from Dr. Potter.

I find myself in agreement also with his judgment that, in view of Dr. Burggraaff's long educational environment at Hope College, Michigan, during his academic and Divinity studies, following probably upon a similarly somewhat circumscribed environment in his early life, he would probably be better equipped for the important position of a teacher in a Seminary on the basis, not only, of some actual experience as a pastor, but of broader contacts in America which even his three years in Amsterdam in a somewhat similar environment would not supply him.

I hope that your postponed summer recess has been a period of rich refreshment to you.

Very affectionately yours,

Wm. I. Chamberlain

P.S. Please note that Dr. Burggraaff's year of graduation from the Western Theological Seminary, Holland, was 1925, and not 1929 as stated in Dr. Potter's letter through a typographical error.

J. M. Potter

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA
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REV. T. H. MACKENZIE, D.D.
CHAIRMAN EXEC. COMM.

F. M. POTTER, L.H.D.
TREASURER

ack 9/11/28

August 30, 1928

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Your letter of the 28th instant, addressed to Dr. Chamberlain, has been received in his absence. I shall see that it is brought to his attention when he returns to the office next Tuesday. Thinking, however, that you might be anxious to secure information concerning Dr. Burggraaff as soon as possible, I have ventured to make certain inquiries, the result of which I shall pass on to you for what it is worth.

1925 Dr. Burggraaff graduated from Hope College, Michigan, 1921, and from our Western Theological Seminary in 1922. He made a high record at the Seminary and was particularly successful as a public speaker. For the past three years he has been studying at the Free University of Amsterdam, spending some time, as you point out, in the new Church College in Edinburgh.

Dr. Burggraaff appears to be possessed of a rather strong, energetic personality. He is evidently a student. He has already made inquiries at headquarters concerning vacant churches and is hoping to secure a country church where he may have opportunity for further study. He is without experience in teaching, so far as I know, and, not being familiar with courses pursued on the continent, I do not know for what particular position he would be best qualified. I understand that he is sturdily conservative in his views.

It may be that Dr. Burggraaff would fit splendidly into a position in Princeton, as you suggest. Being young and presumptuous, however, I am wondering whether as you look over his record you will have a feeling somewhat like my own, that after all these years of immersion in studies,

Dr Speer
August 30, 1928

- 2 -

so far as Dr. Burggraaff himself is concerned, his best experience would now be gained in the practical work of the ministry; some such position as this being, perhaps, considered later after he has complemented his studies by contact with the deepening experiences of the Pastor.

Yours sincerely,

H. M. Potter

FTP/C

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

September 19, 1926

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX.

Dear Brethren:

In accordance with your request I have had
copies made of the late Judge Lanning's opinion "Report
Concerning the Powers of the Board of Trustees of Prince-
ton Theological Seminary." Enclosed you will find a copy
reproduced from what was furnished me by President
Warfield.

With kind regards, believe me

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Group Secretary

EDWARD L. KATZENBACH
COUNSELLOR AT LAW

ASSOCIATES

GEORGE GILDEA
WILLIAM V. LEE
HORACE J. FARLEE
LOUIS RUDNER

1112 TRENTON TRUST BUILDING
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

21 September 1928.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
"Rockledge",
Lakeville, Conn.

My dear Friend:

It would be a pleasure to see you
and Dr. Mudge, if he should desire to accompany you,
at the office at the above address on Wednesday after-
noon, September 26th. I could make it at 4:00 o'clock
in the afternoon, if that would suit your convenience.
I would make it earlier, except for previous engagements
on that date, and I would come to your office instead of
asking you to come to mine, if it were possible. I trust
however, that the time and place will not be too incon-
venient for you. I think better progress would be made
in connection with the matter if I should talk with you
two gentlemen alone.

Looking forward with pleasurable antici-
pation to your visit, I am

Very sincerely yours,



K. can be in contact. After four o'clock
Can you go.

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

September 21, 1928

PLAN OF PROCEDURE TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING
OF THE GROUP OF SIX, APPOINTED FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER
TWENTY-SEVENTH, 10:15 A.M.

I. The agreement to forget and forgive as prepared by Dr. Dr. McEwan (with possibly minor amendments) to be signed by the Directors and Faculty.

II. Acceptance of the Charter and Plan as contained in the Report of the Committee of Eleven, to the 1928 General Assembly, with the amendments recently submitted to the Group for its consideration by Dr. Mudge, and any others upon which the Group may ultimately agree.

III. If the Board of Trustees agrees to "II" then

A. An agreement to secure from the Board of Directors the removal from the table of the resolution now pending requesting the resignation of Dr. Stevenson and upon said removal the expunging of the resolution from the Minutes of the Directors.

B. The postponement of elections to vacant Chairs in the Faculty.

C. An agreement that the resignation of the officers of the Directors and of the Trustees and of the officers and members of the Faculty including instructors, be placed in the hands of the new Board if and when organized.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis S. Mudge

John B. Laird

(Committee)

Robert Wick Wilson
31 Library Place,
Princeton, N.J.,
Sept. 23, 28.

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Speer, Jr.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I have carried out
cell that I proposed that day at 116
512 Ave., except that I have not thing let
it wise to see Dr. Sturmen. I thought it
might do more harm than good.

Dr. Markin was very nice and agreed
after several interviews to a proposal
for mediation. So have Drs. Sumstung,
and Hodge. Ellis will probably come
around. I thought it would be best to
hear the other two who have not yet
accepted it statement to your wise
attempts.

I, like you, am for peace in the

God has put you in a position, where
you can do more than any one else to
lead us out of this wilderness of suspicion
and unrest in which we are now wandering.

May God guide you in the difficult
decisions that lie before you! Pardon me,
if I have said too much and blame it
on my too great trust in your ability and
in your devotion to unity and peace.

Yours in His service,

(Robert Dick Wilson.)

Church; but I feel certain — in fact I know — that it cannot be brought about by downing the conservative part of the Church. In view of the fact that the leaders of the new plan, or charter, are liable to succeed (if they succeed at all) by reason of their alliance with the most radical elements in the Church; and of the fact that these same leaders are prominent members of our two great Boards; it is absolutely certain, that, if the fundamentalists are trampled upon, they will retaliate upon the Boards and the work of the whole Church will suffer.

Why have I written this to you? Because I believe that you heartily believe in what I believe, and that

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

October 2, 1928.

RECEIVED

OCT 3 - 1928

Mr. Spear

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX.

Dear Brethren:

Enclosed please find the record made by your Secretary of Conference #4. To save as much time as possible for important matters at our Conference appointed for Tuesday, October 9, at 9:15 A.M., will you be good enough to transmit in writing to me any corrections you wish made in said record.

I am enclosing herewith also a tentative draft of the report of the Group of Six to the Board of Directors. With reference to this tentative report, please note-

1. That it has seemed well to your Secretary to give a rather full resume of our Conferences. This he has done that the Board of Directors may have first-hand information concerning the character and extent of our investigations and endeavors. Your Secretary fears that if this resume is made too brief a proper impression will not be made upon the Board with reference to the thoroughness with which we have attempted to do the work assigned us.

2. Promptly at 9 o'clock on Friday morning, September 28th, your Secretary established telephone conversation with the private law office of the Hon. Edward Katzenbach. He was fortunate to be able to talk with Mr. Louis Rudner, Mr. Katzenbach's associate, who had conducted for Mr. Katzenbach the detailed study of the Charter problems which we face. Mr. Rudner promised on behalf of Mr. Katzenbach that a draft of a proposed legislative act and of an amended Charter would be in my hands by Friday next. These will be forwarded to each of you, if possible, so as to reach you by Monday.

3. Please be so kind as to criticize unsparingly the enclosed tentative report and forward to your Secretary in writing your criticisms at the earliest possible hour.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Group Secretary

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

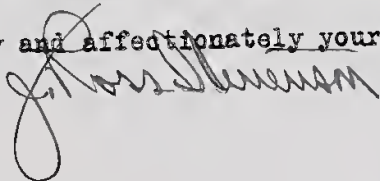
PRESIDENT'S ROOM

-2-

of Control and on the principle that every professor must be recognized as being in good and regular standing, insist that in the Faculty there must be confidence, spiritual fellowship and loyal cooperation, the desired end would be secured at once. Dr. Thompson's Committee after conference with the Faculty, Directors and Trustees came to this conclusion, and the General Assembly adopted their report. The Committee of Eleven as a result of its study has come to the same conviction. It is a self-evident proposition - there cannot be a united Faculty under a divided Board or divided Boards of control.

However, as you are certainly aware, I am sympathetic with and responsive to each and every endeavor to bring about peace, although, as you can well understand, by the action of the Board at its meeting on June 20th I have been placed in a very anomalous position so that I must look to men like yourself to clear up an unbearable situation.

Gratefully and affectionately yours,



Robert E. Speer, D.D., LL.D.,

New York City.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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 LCO = Deferred Cable
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Received at BAR HARBOR ME

1028 SEP 6 PM 9 48

RZ175 28 NL=BUCKHILLFALLS PENN 6

DR R E SPEER=

CARE MRS JOHN S KENNEDY BARHARBOR ME=

OUR CHAIRMAN DIRECTS THE CALLING OF A MEETING OF OUR
 GROUP FOR FRIDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER FOURTEENTH AT ELEVEN
 FIFTEEN DAYLIGHT TIME AT MY OFFICE IN THE WITHERSPOON
 BUILDING=

LEWIS MUDGE.

Charles R. Erdman

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, N. J.

September 6, 1928.

Dear Robert:-

You may be sure I appreciate the spirit and intention of your letter addressed to Ross Stevenson and myself. We will certainly do all in our power to "effect a reconciliation in the Faculty". However, in view of all that we have done and endured for ten years, the request of the Directors seems to me rather pathetic.

Surely Ross has acted according to Matthew 18:15, and I have at least tried to do the same.

The difficulties in the Faculty are not quite of kind that your letter intimates, nor exactly such as our Saviour had in view (Matt. 18:15). We are troubled by hallucinations and obsessions, as to false doctrines and "Modernism".

For instance, some months ago when a meeting for prayer was proposed, a member of the Faculty declared that he could not pray with a man of my character.

Of course I followed the precept of Matt. 18:15 and saw him alone. He assured me that I was "not true to our Lord", his one proof and charge being that when Moderator of the Assembly I had failed to remove Henry Sloane Coffin from the Board of National Missions. As I was no longer Moderator, reconciliation was declared impossible - although I confessed a long line of other sins and was as humble as a Quaker.

But you, dear Robert, were declared to be equally guilty, in fact you are "the most dangerous and injurious man in the Presbyterian Church".

You have long known the attitude of Machen toward you, of his protests against your speaking in the Seminary, and his condemnation of the Board of Foreign Missions on the ground of your connection with it. Have you ever talked with Machen? I believe it would be most helpful. If you and Machen could reconcile your differences the greatest help would be given to us all. We could find the way out.

Ross and I will be glad to help at any time. However, I believe we could accomplish more after the Board of Directors has taken action.

I suppose they will consider, at their next meeting, Machen's "Attack on Princeton Seminary", and Wilson's article, and the publications of Robinson and Frank Stevenson.

These sum up pretty well the differences which Ross and I will have to take up with the members of the Faculty. On the charges which these articles contain the Directors will need to take immediate action.

The whole question turns upon a matter of fact - Is there doctrinal unsoundness in Princeton. Macartney publicly states that the whole trouble

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, N. J.

-2-

at Princeton is doctrinal. Ten thousand ministers and elders have signed a statement that the doctrines of the Virgin Birth, the Resurrection and the Deity of Christ are in danger. Wherever I go I am regarded as one who has called these doctrines into question. Machen asserts, in the New York Times, that "it is an insult to the intelligence of the church to deny that the trouble in Princeton is doctrinal."

When the Directors have acted upon the statements of Machen and Macartney and Frank Stevenson, ^{and} Robert Dick Wilson, then Stevenson and I will be in a position to approach the members of the Faculty. Nothing else separates us. Machen and his colleagues have drawn through the Faculty an imaginary line, dividing themselves from us who are unworthy to be trusted in any matters involving loyalty to Christian truth. The division is still held by them. It is wholly of their own making. When the Directors have dispelled this ~~dis~~illusion there will be perfect peace in the Faculty. You will surely urge immediate action.

I shall hope to see you in a few days for a conference on these important matters.

Yours affectionately,

Charles T. Edman

Robert E. Speer, D.D., LL.D.,
New York City.

October 4, 1928.

Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D.D.,
514 Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Lew:

I had hoped to see you for a few minutes this morning before the meeting of the Committee on the Directory of Worship, but I can just as well jot down the few points on which I wish to speak in connection with the report of the last meeting of our Group at Princeton and your draft of the Report to the Board of Directors.

First, with reference to the report of our Group meeting:

1. I do think it would be well to change the language in the paragraph on the first page in which I report Dr. Erdman's letter, omitting the last clause and substituting for it the following "but had failed because of the distrust wholly unwarranted in Dr. Erdman's view of some members of the Faculty in the loyalty and fidelity of some of their associates."

2. On Sheet 11, the end of the first paragraph, would it not be well to substitute some other phrase for "a form of words". Would not some such phrase as "a harmonious unified and trustful statement" be better?

3. On sheet 12, would it not be better to substitute for "changed atmosphere" in the fifth paragraph the words "desire for harmony and agreement" and in the last line of this paragraph substitute the phrase "one chief root" for the "chief root"

4. On Sheet 11, have you submitted paragraph 3 to Mr. Ed. Katzenbach or Mr. Rudner for their approval. We want to be sure that we represent them accurately.

5. My recollection was that we agreed at this meeting to recall the recommendation of our previous meeting with regard to the immediate nomination of professors to the vacant posts in the Faculty. Ought there not be a record of this?

Secondly, with reference to the proposed report to the Board of Directors:

1. In the third paragraph, page 3, at the end you say that the statement prepared by the Board of Directors for the Faculty was not entirely satisfactory to any of the members of the Faculty. This may be true but I think that it did satisfy one or two of them. Would it not be better to say simply "was not satisfactory to the members of the Faculty". Some thought that it went too far in what asked and others thought it did not go far enough.

2. Would it not be well to report very fully to the Board of Directors just what the replies of the Faculty were, or at least to be ready to do so as the Board desires such a fuller report.

3. Ought we not to report to the Board our reconsideration of the action with regard to the nomination of professors and our view that it should go over for the present.

4. At the top of page 5, at the end of the paragraph, I would suggest some such phrase as "harmonious and satisfactory statement" instead of "form of words".

5. Inasmuch as you quote in this Report the five points emphasized by Mr. Katzenbach, I would renew the suggestion made above that you make sure we represent him accurately in this.

6. I was so sorry that you could not be present at the luncheon in New York last Monday when Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman asked us to meet with them. I was there and Dr. McDowell and Emmons were also present. Nothing emerged with which you are not already familiar. Their chief fears with regard to the proposed union of the Boards seems to be that this might not deliver us from the difficulties of these past few years.

With regard to the proposed Faculty Statement the fear of Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman was it might be such a minimum statement as would be unsatisfactory and that it would misleading.

Dr. Erdman felt that to be satisfactory the statement should contain the idea of withdrawal as proposed in the Board of Directors statement of June 20th, the idea of forgiveness as embodied in Dr. McEwan's resolution and declaration of mutual trust and confidence. I urged Dr. Erdman to attempt to include these ideas in the Faculty Statement and I suggested that even if they could not get in everything the effort should be made to secure as satisfactory statement as possible and it would be open to them to supplement this if they desired by an additional statement, indicating what some felt should be included in order to bring about harmony and trust.

If the Faculty Statement should not include any affirmation of trust in one another's doctrinal loyalty then would it not be well for us to introduce such a declaration in our recommendations to the Board of Directors, based on the action of the Board several years ago in recommendation of the Committee of Seven. What would you think of some such statement as this-

"The Board of Directors herewith re-affirms its declaration of adopted on the recommendation of a Committee of the Board after careful investigation of the whole situation as follows: '1. Your Committee has found every member of the faculty entirely loyal to the standards of our Church and to the pledge required by the Seminary. There is not room for doubt or criticism as to the faith or teaching of any professor or instructor in the Seminary.' The Board of Directors herewith declares anew its confidence in the doctrinal trustworthiness of both the Boards of the Seminary and of the Faculty and of the loyalty of their members to the Plan of Government in the traditional fidelity of the Seminary to the Church and its doctrines.

Perhaps you will be able to suggest something much better than this.

Ever affectionately yours,

October 4, 1928.

Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D.D.,
514 Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Lew:

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2. Could it not be well to report very fully to the Board of Directors just what the replies of the Faculty were, or at least to be ready to do so as the Board desires such a fuller report.

3. Ought we not to report to the Board our reconsideration of the action with regard to the nomination of professors and our view that it should go over for the present.

4. At the top of page 5, at the end of the paragraph, I would suggest some such phrase as "harmonious and satisfactory statement" instead of "form of words".

5. Inasmuch as you quote in this Report the five points emphasized by Mr. Katzenbach, I would renew the suggestion made above that you make sure we represent him accurately in this.

6. I was so sorry that you could not be present at the luncheon in New York last Monday when Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman asked us to meet with them. I was there and Dr. McDowell and Emmons were also present. Nothing emerged with which you are not already familiar. Their chief fears with regard to the proposed union of the Boards seems to be that this might not deliver us from the difficulties of these past few years.

With regard to the proposed Faculty statement the fear of Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman was it might be such a minimum statement as would be unsatisfactory and that it would be misleading.

Dr. Erdman felt that to be satisfactory the statement should contain the idea of withdrawal as proposed in the Board of Directors statement of June 20th, the idea of forgiveness as embodied in Dr. McKwan's resolution and declaration of mutual trust and confidence. I urged Dr. Erdman to attempt to include these ideas in the Faculty Statement and I suggested that even if they could not get in everything the effort should be made to secure as satisfactory statement as possible and it would be open to them to supplement this if they desired by an additional statement, indicating what some felt should be included in order to bring about harmony and trust.

If the Faculty Statement should not include any affirmation of trust in one another and doctrinal loyalty then would it not be well for us to introduce such a declaration in our recommendations to the Board of Directors, based on the action of the Board several years ago in recommendation of the Committee of Seven. What would you think of some such statement as this-

"The Board of Directors herewith re-affirms its declaration of adopted on the recommendation of a Committee of the Board after careful investigation of the whole situation as follows: '1. Your Committee has found every member of the faculty entirely loyal to the standards of our Church and to the pledge required by the Seminary. There is not room for doubt or criticism as to the faith or teaching of any professor or instructor in the Seminary.' The Board of Directors herewith declares anew its confidence in the doctrinal trustworthiness of both the Boards of the Seminary and of the Faculty and of the loyalty of their members to the Plan of Government in the traditional fidelity of the Seminary to the Church and its doctrines.

Perhaps you will be able to suggest something much better than this.

Ever affectionately yours,

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK



GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPDON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX:

Dear Friend:-

Enclosed you will find the Records of
the Conferences of the Group of Six held to date.

Your secretary will be pleased to receive
any amendments or corrections you may care to send him.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Lewis S. Mudge

July 26, 1928

E. D. Warfield

RECEIVED

JUL 3 - 1925

Wilson College
Chambersburg, Pa.
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 2, '28

My dear Dr. Speer;

I am sorry, but I could not
act upon your suggestion to have
an interview with Dr. Stevenson. I
have been so far from well that a
trip to Princeton has been impossible.
When I last wrote you I was
expecting to go to Phila for a hearing
in a case in which the College is
interested, but I was not well
enough to go. Now comes the minute
of the meeting & the opportunity is
gone. I must be frank & say that
I have found it difficult to see
just how I could hopefully approach
the matter with Dr. Stevenson. We
have not seen any of the questions
which have divided us from the same

point of view and I fear he has
thought me personally unfriendly
when I have ^{been} urging the justness
of opinions which I have long held
in regard to the organization and
administration of the Seminary.

I am sorry not to have been
able to do anything which you
have done me the honor to suggest.

May God open for us a path of
reconciliation. I know you are
seeking it with the same sincerity
that I think I am.

Yours cordially & sincerely,

E. J. Warfield

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.
N. Y. City.

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

July 4, 1928

RECEIVED

JUL 5 - 1928

Mr. Mudge

My dear Bobby

I am writing at home because of the holiday, hence the pen-pushing. I have had two calls from Laird recently. He is not much pleased, apparently, with the way things are going toward some adjustment at Princeton Seminary. He asked me if I would attend a meeting of our "group" of Dr. McEwen called one in the near future. Of course I agreed as to do. I wish so much that Dr. Feunoy, you & I could agree upon some plan which we should unite in supporting. The other three members of the "group" are united in a desire to do just as little as possible. If they can secure the resignation of Dr. Stevenson all will be well - they think. That is their main, & I believe at present their sole definitely defined objective.

The last time Laird was in to see me - last Monday I believe it was - he seemed much more open to suggestions & showed serious interest in the following plan of procedure which I suggested

(1) Accept the Thompson plan of reorganization

except (1) that the new board should consist of 42 members - 3 classes ÷ { members 8 or 9 probably
Laird 6 or 5 then
James

(2) consist of the members of the present boards of Directors & Teachers

(3) membership therefore on new board to be open not merely to members & ruling elders but to any one, ^{who} would accept

& adopt pledge of membership as worked in Thompson report.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

- (2) Dr Stevenson to accept chair of Floridietes.
(3) Dr Machen to remain in N.T. Department.
(4) Dr Allis to be installed in Helene chair with the understanding that he be transferred to Dr R.D. Wilson's chair upon his retirement.

What do you think of the above as something worth standing for?

Even affectionately yours

Leam S. Nudge

1. One Board
2. Parents, dignitaries but also students - Representative function. ability + direction
5. Parents + council have power.
3. School plan with Directorship - Superintendent. Control of - Staff + Money
4. Regional Committee - class
CA.

Duplicate

July 11, 1988
(Dictated July 10)

Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D.D.,
Witherspoon Building
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Lew:

Your good letter of July 4th was duly received. Since I saw you last Paul Martin kindly came over and we had a long talk together over the Princeton problem, and yesterday Dr. Stevenson spent the afternoon here and showed me letters which he had received from Dr. Laird, Dr. Crane, Dr. McEwan and Dr. Finney. He said he had difficulties also with regard to the statement which the Directors and Faculty were asked to sign, and that Dr. Erdman had difficulties also.

Some of these it seemed to me rested on the assumption that the adoption of that statement was the only action which it was contemplated the Board of Directors would take. I pointed out that that was not my understanding and that that was only a first step and that there were many other things which it seemed to me should be done. We had a long talk together and I don't know what the outcome will be as to his signing and Dr. Erdman signing the statement, but we should certainly be in a queer position if the minority in the faculty refused to sign it and the majority signed it.

I think Dr. Stevenson felt that there should be more specific and concrete retractions but I told him I did not believe we could get anywhere by such a method and my only hope was that we should wipe out the past and begin afresh.

I am glad that you have had your talk with Dr. Laird and that you have felt encouraged by it to hope that he and others may realize that the problem of the Seminary cannot be solved by any such simple device as removing Dr. Stevenson from the Presidency and making him Professor of Homiletics and by Dr. Machen's withdrawing from his election by the Directors to the chair of Apologetics. As to the latter Dr. Thompson told the General Assembly in San Francisco that he hoped in due time Dr. Machen's election might be confirmed. Whatever the issue in that matter, however, whether one way or the other, the solution by removing Dr. Stevenson was certainly not contemplated in the action of the last Assembly but was very specifically pronounced against by Dr. Matthews, and I cannot yet see it wise or right.

As I have thought the matter over I would raise the question whether it would not be well to try to outline a more comprehensive and radical set of proposals - such as the following:

1. There should be a re-organization and unification of the Boards of the Seminary, bringing into being one new Board such as was proposed by the Committee of Eleven, or with any modifications such as you and Dr. Laird talked over together.

July 11, 1928

2. All the members of the faculty should place their resignations in the hands of this new Board which would proceed to organize a new Faculty with such retentions or releases of professors, and such re-allotment of duties as might be deemed wise.

3. There should be a clearer and more satisfactory statement of the functions and responsibilities of the Faculty; of the relation of its members ~~one~~ to one another; of the office of the President and of the inter-relations of the Board of Directors and the Faculty in their organization and direction of the institution.

4. All the traditional ideals of Princeton with regard to scholarship and thoroughness should be preserved, but there should be a return to the original design of the Seminary and to its character and work under Miller, Alexander and the Hodges, as a school of piety and devotion; of practical training; of missionary and evangelistic zeal.

5. There should be such a reorganization of the curriculum as would enable the Seminary to meet its full present opportunity and to discharge its full present responsibility.

6. A way must be found to fill the institution with a spirit of peace and concord and the glow of love that we have been told characterized the Seminary under Charles Hodge and that we know characterized Dr. Green and Dr. Archie Hodge.

What would you think of our preparing some such set of proposals as this to submit to Dr. McEwan's Committee?

Ever affectionately yours,

RES/B

John B. Laird
FRANKFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FRANKFORD AVE. AND CHURCH ST.
PHILADELPHIA

Es

July 20, 1928.

Robert E. Speer, D.D.
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I have been thinking a good deal about what we were talking over yesterday, especially your suggestion that I write to Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Machen, asking them to initiate an effort at personal reconciliation with Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman. These difficulties come to my mind:

First:- If they have not all signed the paper adopted by the Board, it would seem scarcely necessary to ask them to take this second step, and if they have signed it; would it not seem as though for the present the signing of the paper was sufficient? I do not know who has or who has not signed the paper, but I think that we should avoid picking out any one feature of the whole matter and emphasizing it, apparently to the ignoring of all other phases of the matter.

Second:- My relation to Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Machen is not like that of yours to Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman. I have had no conversation with them on this or any other phase of the question since the Assembly. They would not likely show me any letters, such as Dr. Stevenson showed you, from members of the board. We have always been cordial, but not intimate. Your approach to Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman would in a measure be but a continuance of a conversation which you have already had; whilst my approach to Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Machen would have to be justified on some other basis.

Third:- I have never heard that Dr. Armstrong, either by writing or in public address, has been any other than a christian gentleman toward Dr. Stevenson or Dr. Erdman, and I would be slow to ask him to do more than the Board Resolution implies, without the knowledge of some other provocation.

Fourth:- If I understand it rightly, Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman are aggrieved by Machen's statement in a pamphlet that they were attempting to divert the Seminary from its historic theological position. I have never heard that Dr. Machen has made any suggestion that would even imply lack of christian integrity. This being therefore a theological matter, I can see great difficulty in persuading Dr. Machen to make such an approach as would be satisfactory, excepting that he might withdraw his whole pamphlet. It is true that if he signs the paper presented by the board, he indicates regret that this caused injury or grief to them.

Fifth:- I wonder if we are not making a mistake in taking these matters up piecemeal. Would it not be better to work out our whole scheme, always keeping in mind that our task is to

bring about such cordial relations among all parties concerned and such changes in administration of governing bodies and faculty, as may be necessary to enable the Seminary to do the work for which it was founded, in the most effective way. I quite agree with you that a Seminary must do its work in a christian way; nothing else will compensate for the lack of stirring christian character on the part of Professors, but it may be that if there is a lack of this, it may best be remedied as a part of the whole scheme of re-habilitation.

Sixth:- Since Dr. Machen has taken the step of withdrawing his acceptance of the election to the Chair of Apologetics, it would seem that he had already showed a disposition to cooperate in our effort to establish peace. I think that he might well argue that the next step should be taken by others implicated quite as much, as many believe, in the unhappy affair, as he. As I said yesterday, Dr. Machen has been greatly humiliated by the failure of the Seminary to confirm his election, and whether rightly or wrongly, he likely resents very deeply Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman going before the Assembly to oppose that confirmation. And whilst I am not a stickler for these things, and am willing to forget everything that has occurred, the question is still in my mind as to whether the Board of Directors may not have a grievance against two members of the Faculty who went and opposed the Board's action, before the Assembly. It may be that whatever any of us may think of that action of the Board; still it was an action of the Board, and the Board might have some justification for resenting such an attitude on the part of its President, and a member of its Faculty; especially since the Trustees had already approved the election. I am just recalling this with the hope that we may keep all these things before our mind, and may remember that if we are going to insist, and it may be we should, that everything shall be cleared up that has made for trouble, there is a long list of them. It has been charged that the Board of Directors has failed to direct. In this matter, the Board acted in accordance with its authority. Its action was opposed by those from whom such opposition would scarcely be expected. Now you may explain this on the basis that the Board is composed of weak men, but it is the Board, and as such it may claim some rights. However, I am not insisting on anything of this sort.

I confess to a good deal of discouragement in the outcome of our first Meeting. I think that I am right when I say that three members at least of the group understood that the action requiring signatures of the members of the Faculty to the paper, carried with it the thought that the whole six members would urge this as a part of a plan to remedy the difficulties, and that part of the plan had in it the suggestion of the transference of the President to the Chair of Homiletics. I have not yet recovered fully from the feeling that Dr. Finney's letter aroused in me yesterday. Explain it as we will, I believed that Dr. Finney's mission was to urge Dr. Stevenson so to do. I can't conceive of anything else. So I am unwilling to do anything else of a piece meal character. I am willing to vote tomorrow for Dr. McKay, for Dr. Stevenson, although I think a stronger man could be put in that Chair. Dr. Vander Meulen has been my man for the Homiletic Chair, but I yield all this, and will do almost anything to help solve the problem; Let us work out our whole plan and avoid misunderstandings.

Very Cordially, *Ans. Meind*

July 26, 1928

The Rev. John P. Laird, D.D.,
Frankford Presbyterian Church,
Frankford Avenue and Church Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Dr. Laird,

Your good letter of July 20th has been received and it may be that you are right in your views as to the suggestion which I made with regard to your writing to Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Machen and my writing to Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman, each of us urging those to whom we wrote to take the initiative in seeking to bring about full reconciliation and harmony in the Seminary Faculty. I appreciate the force of the reasons given in your letter. Before we finally dismiss the proposal however will you not give consideration to the following suggestions:

1. In any difficult situation such as this, marked by personal disagreements and probably personal misunderstandings, what is the fundamental Christian course of action? Can there be any doubt about it? Is it not that some one of those involved should frankly and earnestly go straight to the others and see if together they cannot clear away all difficulties and go forward in concord and fellowship? One would gather from the teaching of our Lord that the person who felt himself most innocent and aggrieved should be the one to take the initiative.

2. I would remind you again of Dr. Warfield's statement in his minority report, in which he says that in his judgment the root and ground of the difficulties is not in the "organization or government of the Seminary but in personalities", and "in the lack of that tolerance which we so strongly claim for ourselves and so generally deny to others." If this is the real root and ground of the trouble, do we not stand a far better chance of removing the trouble by going directly to its root and ground, instead of dealing with other causes which, if Dr. Warfield is right, are secondary and accessory, and it is quite conceivable that changes might be made in these other matters that would leave us with the central problem and difficulty unchanged?

3. I quite agree with you that we ought to deal with matters comprehensively. I think there are more sources of our trouble than the one Dr. Warfield has singled out, although I think he is right in regarding that as central, and I think we should, as you propose, try to plan an adequate program of action. I was endeavoring to do this in the too full statement which I made to the Committee in regard to the whole situation and the things that we ought to change and the things that we ought to do if we are really to administer the trust laid upon us in the plan of the Seminary. I think it was just at this point that the program of action laid before us at the first meeting of our group in Princeton was defective. It appeared to assume that we could deal with the problem by one or two general resolutions of withdrawal and expression of confidence and, then, a transfer of Dr. Stevenson from the residency and a

7/26/28

withdrawal by Dr. Machen of his acceptance of the Professorship of Apologetics. Dr. Mudge told us in that first meeting that he did not think this program would reach bottom and that, as far as I have been able to form a judgment, has been my judgment also. I think we shall have to do a number of things—perhaps some other things than any that have been yet suggested, and I think with you that it is the difficult, perhaps the impossible, duty of our group to try to formulate such a program. But, would it not be far easier to do so, and would not the whole situation be changed if there should be a Faculty reconciliation and a genuine assurance of unity and harmonious cooperation in the future? Perhaps the hearty acceptance by each member of the Faculty of the general resolution which was adopted by the Directors would be a long step toward this. Of course, that was our hope. But I have wondered whether we would not be far better assured of such a result if in face to face and brotherly fellowship the members of the Faculty could clear away their difficulties and effect a glorious Christian unity. If this kind of a miracle is not possible in the Faculty, then, on what ground can we teach our students in the Seminary to go out into the world and preach the possibility of miracles as great as this or even greater to our world of discord and strife?

Very sincerely yours,

S:C.

July 26, 1928

The Rev. John B. Laird, D.D.,
Frankford Presbyterian Church,
Frankford Avenue and Church Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Dr. Laird,

Your good letter of July 20th has been received and it may be that you are right in your view as to the suggestion which I made with regard to your writing to Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Machen and my writing to Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman, each of us urging those to whom we wrote to take the initiative in seeking to bring about full reconciliation and harmony in the Seminary Faculty. I appreciate the force of the reasons given in your letter. Before we finally dismiss the proposal however will you not give consideration to the following suggestions:

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7/26/26

withdrawal by Dr. Machen of his acceptance of the Professorship of Apologetics. Dr. Hodge told us in that first meeting that he did not think this program would reach bottom and that, as far as I have been able to form a judgment, has been my judgment also. I think we shall have to do a number of things—perhaps some other things than any that have been yet suggested, and I think with you that it is the difficult, perhaps the impossible, duty of our group to try to formulate such a program. But, would it not be far easier to do so, and would not the whole situation be changed if there should be a Faculty reconciliation and a genuine assurance of unity and harmonious cooperation in the future? Perhaps the hearty acceptance by each member of the Faculty of the general resolution which was adopted by the Directors would be a long step toward this. Of course, that was our hope. But I have wondered whether we would not be far better assured of such a result if in face to face and brotherly fellowship the members of the Faculty could clear away their difficulties and effect a glorious Christian unity. If this kind of a miracle is not possible in the Faculty, then, on what ground can we teach our students in the Seminary to go out into the world and preach the possibility of miracles as great as this or even greater to our world of discord and strife?

Very sincerely yours,

S:C.

J. Krs Stevenson
THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

July 26, 1928.

*Saw and talked with
Stevenson July 31, 28*

My dear Robert:-

Just before Florence and I started off for a trip up to New England, Dr. McEwan arrived in Princeton and we had a friendly conference of nearly three hours duration. He made it appear that his eagerness to see me was inspired by the suggestions of my friends and repeated the statement that he and others had been encouraged to urge me to resign the Presidency and accept a Professorship because such a solution of our Seminary difficulties seemed to appeal particularly to the friends of the President. When I pressed him for the real reason why I should resign, he could only repeat the statement which the Directors made to Dr. Thompson's Committee of Five nearly two years ago, viz: that no business corporation could prosper with a President who does not have the full support of the Directorate. I called his attention to the fact that the Directorate itself in this case had not only been under fire but are under condemnation, whereas on the other hand, the President has been more or less vindicated. He was frank enough to concede that the old argument of the Directors in the light of the whole situation had very little value. He made one concession after another, mainly to the effect that in the contention which has taken place the President has been right and the majority of the Directors and the majority of the Faculty have been wrong. He did not seem to have any clear cut program and simply indulges the hope that as a result of the action of the Board taken on June 20th peace and harmony may be established among the Directors and among the Faculty members and that the proposed conference with a committee of the Board of Trustees will affect a complete reconciliation there. He conceded that the attitude of the Directors towards the Trustees will have to be different from what it has been, resulting in effect in the establishment of a single Board of control. It seemed to me that if he were pressed for an honest opinion freed from all sentiment and personal consideration, he would concede that the situation here has demanded such action as the Assembly has taken, and that the only satisfactory outcome will be one Board, representing the Church, and with authority to govern.

We discussed the proposed resolution and he conceded that according to the minutes it is in an unfortunate setting, preceded by Dr. Warfield's motion as to the appointment of a "group" rather than a committee, the purpose being to mislead, and followed by another resolution of Dr. Warfield's placed on the docket for the next meeting of the Board, and which serves as conclusive evidence that the slate will not be wiped clean as is the intention of the proposed resolution, and the past will still be used for condemnatory proceedings.

No doubt Dr. McEwan gave some report of his interview at the meeting of the "group" in Philadelphia. He is always so big-hearted and gracious that it is a delight to confer with him, but

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

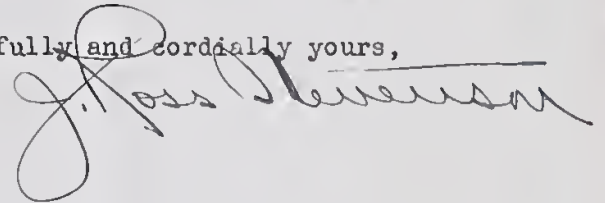
PRESIDENT'S ROOM

-2-

it is difficult for him to labor for the solution of Seminary difficulties and at the same time work with the group which dominates the policies of the Presbyterian. I was interested to have him state that immediately following the meeting of the Directors, he went over to Dr. Craig's house for a conference with the Directors of the Presbyterian, as such men as A. W. Harbison, Mr. Munro, Dr. Buchanan, and others were awaiting his arrival.

Florence and I have just returned from our trip to New England, and although we came within hailing distance of your summer paradise, we were informed that the roads were torn up and we would have to make a detour.

Very gratefully and cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Ross Stevenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Robert E. Speer, D.D.,

New York City.

E. D. Warfield

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Wilson College
Chambersburg, Pa.

JUN 27 1928

June 26, 1928.

Mr. Speer

S

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I beg to acknowledge your letter, which must have thoughtful and prayerful consideration before I can reply to its suggestions.

If I know my own heart and mind I am willing to make every sacrifice of pride or opinion in order to secure for the Seminary and for the Church that era of reconciliation and restoration which I think the Assembly meant it should have.

I will write you as soon as I feel that I have arrived at a frame of mind that will be suitable for so grave a task.

I am greatly obliged to you for writing me and for making the suggestion which you have made.

With warm regard,

Very truly yours,

E. D. Warfield

SPRINGDALE
PRINCETON
NEW JERSEY

June 25th

1928

My dear Robert, —

Your question to Ross about whether
he knew of disaffected alumni made
me realize that of course you had
no way of knowing what the real
situation is in the Seminary.

The thought of the blindness to truth
that could induce a group of Directors
to offer Ross a chair in Princeton
Seminary staggers belief even after
the accumulating experiences of
three years of a going and coming.

was and disillusionment at their
hands. Of course the whole world knows
The Directors find Ross a hindrance
to their plans and wish him out of
this way, because they have given
voice to this in resolutions and
in public print. In order to bring
about his resignation where they did
not dare to force it. This their own
Board, they have engaged in a
campaign of publicity, designed
to discredit Ross' personal relation-
ship to the trust of the Lord of God

SPRINGDALE
PRINCETON
NEW JERSEY

in the Bible and to His Lord, to cast
suspicions upon the integrity of his
purposes for the Seminary and to im-
pugn the honesty of his motives. The
responsibility of every one of these
so called majority is unavoida-
ble for they have raised no slight-
est protest against an assault
so personal that profane strangers
have gasped, so public that the
secular press can make use of

any new insinuations against the
President of this Institution in their
columns and have it understood,
and so definite and determined that
not only was there every form of
article embodying insinuating
criticisms of Ross printed weekly
in the religious paper of which
directors of the Seminary are on
the editorial Board, and which bears
the name of our Church (so that
some people really think it is the
official organ of our Church)
but printed pamphlets written by

SPRINGDALE
PRINCETON
NEW JERSEY

a member of the Faculty and by Directors have been sent out to every minister and missionary in our Church, including of course many alumni. They have been unchallenged by the Board of Directors. What can Alumni think?

Our Students are influenced by the weekly articles in the Princeton Post and free to them all and by the representations of his fears and dissensions by Dr. Morrison in the groups that he gathers to gether.

In the face of a determined and persistent,
and definite effort to disqualify a
President, is precisely when the point of
attack was at a point so vital and
so precious, - that of fidelity to the
fundamental doctrines of our Semi-
nary, could it be possible that there
who do not know the situation would
ask - "Why does he not resign?"

Remember this, think of the personal
instructions that has been given our
alumni. Not only was a friend (spoken
of in print in a ^{church} ~~column~~ in Philadel-
phia and in the general press as

SPRINGDALE
PRINCETON
NEW JERSEY

a \$50, was found beside being used for visits by individuals among the churches where Alumni were gathered in social meetings and Ross and Dr. Erdman were so definitely discredited that even those invited to such banquets told Ross they had to openly renounce at things that were said. Not only was this found used for the travel and social expenses of especially chosen messengers among the alumni

and friends of Princeton, but a list of
names was printed in a form to give
it weight and importance, purporting
to be a list of those who wished to
appeal to the Assembly for the main-
tenance of doctrinal integrity in
the Seminary, but in reality so subtly
deceptive that in many cases men
have written saying they signed it
thinking they were upholding Ross'
administration, - some to say
they never signed it at all and
they do not know how their names
appeared there. In the list ~~there~~

SPRINGDALE
PRINCETON
NEW JERSEY

is a duplication of names, and
names of those who do not exist
at all, and the names of two di-
rectors of power whom a special
note stated in print that no
directors had been asked to sign
it. It was a cowardly way of
trying to cast Ross under sus-
picion; entered into and pro-
moted by officials of the Seminary,
& tolerated by the whole Board. Now,

The very group that has promoted
and carried on and encouraged
this dishonest controversy within
the church, and in the eyes of
the world and before our children
come and offer the object of all
this attack, a falsehood. These
very men who have conspired in
an effort to teach the whole world
that Ross is not safe to follow
because he is not honestly striving
to promote and maintain the prin-
ciples and purposes for which this

SPRINGDALE
PRINCETON
NEW JERSEY

Seminary stands, "They", charged
with maintaining the doctrinal in-
tegrity of this Seminary, within a
month from the time they presented
these changes in one way and another,
to a listening, puzzled world, come
to Pass as presenting a readiness to
pass a resolution in Committee
that they have no suspicion of
the President's orthodoxy and doctrinal
purpose and invite him to a

place of specialized scholarships to
train the young men of our churches.

One can only read the fine
and searching words of summary
in the Catalogue, describing the de-
signs of the Seminary and so clearly
indicating what considerations are
to be distinctly viewed and sacred-
ly regarded both by teachers and
pupils with a rising tide of
indignation that Directors could
be so false to their vows and so
traitorous to a trust.

SPRINGDALE
PRINCETON
NEW JERSEY

Dr. Ross filed presented this reso-
lution you and Dr. Quincy re-
ported - Dr. Ross filed who tried
to silence questions about the dis-
placement of Dr. Erdman by an
article in the New York Times signed
by him, when immediately in-
formed by Ross that it was a
false presentation of the occurrence
refused to misify Ross' correction
and news with drew his statement,

Dr. Howfield presented the reso-
lutions which included the sugges-
tion that Ross enter into a new
association with a group in the
Faculty who committed one of
the most flagrantly insulting, un-
gentlemanly and unacademic
deeds that has ever been ig-
nored by a governing Board.

After years of such devoted and
unselfish service as could hardly
be paralleled as the result of a
jealous plot and before the student

8
SPRINGDALE
PRINCETON
NEW JERSEY

body, amazed and bewildered could
realize what was happening. Dr.
Erdman was displaced and the
Board of Directors allowed the Faculty
to do so unorthodoxly a deed before
young fellows whose training
in justice they are charged with.

The very first move these Directors
make toward justice is to discredit
Ress in the Board. The question
is not the fitness of Ress for the

Presidency; not now. That will
come. It is too late for this Board to
put forth any just grounds for
complaint. They set him before the
world as being an unsafe leader
because of his theological views,
and under this charge he now
retires.

I feel that Ross has rendered
this kind of "hardness" long enough.
It is understandable. He has been
hindered from putting this needed
substance, thwarted and prevented
from giving the students what they

SPRINGDALE
PRINCETON
NEW JERSEY

would to have - a united, earnest,
sharp hearing, praying faculty - in-
viting spiritual leaders like John
McKee here. Indeed I feel that Ross
has been prevented from inviting
you into our camp here

Especially why our students must
submit to unscientific methods
of teaching and arrangement of
courses and classes that pile up
their difficulties and reproach

our my intelligence as an institution?

The Directors are under no domination
not the President.

The Assembly's Committee report is
in the darkest and I still believe the
Church at large would wish to have
a Seminary here that would meet
the needs of the ministry of the world.

I would not take your time if this was
merely a personal matter. The principle
involved affects the whole Church,
and the inclusion need is for a ~~Church~~
Firmness to live. Yours in trusting
friendship and in faith Florence Day Stevenson

Third Presbyterian Church.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

June 23, 1928.

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Board of Foreign Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City, N. Y.

My Dear Dr. Speer:

Your explanatory statement is before me. It is, as you state,
"repetitious", but is, in my judgment, all the better for being so.

Its statements are all contributive to the manifestation of the
spirit in which it is made, and helpful to the impression that we
all desire to find a way of peace. I have no suggestions to make.
I like it as it is.

Your friend truly,

William L. McEwan

wlm;arl

July 30, 1929

The Rev. Lewis A. Hodge, D.D.,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Lew,

I have written to Ed. Katzenbach with regard to the legal possibility of merging the two Princeton Seminary Boards. He may not think it proper to answer, but I am hoping that he will.

We were all instructed by the last meeting of the group in your office to send you any suggestions for the consideration of the Committee consisting of yourself and Dr. Laird. I have very little confidence in my wisdom in this matter. I feel more and more that the problem is outside of my sphere. As I have studied it and talked with men about it, I feel less and less assurance that we are solidly seated in this whole business in the New Testament, and as I have turned away from all our other documents, charter and plan and all to breathe with freedom again the glorious air of the New Testament.

Such suggestions as have come to me thus far are, first, the notes I made and talked over with Dr. Warfield before the meeting of the Directors in Princeton; second, the points in my letter of July 11th to you, and, third, the points I tried to make in my statement at the meeting in your office.

I ~~enclose a copy of the points which I suggested to Dr. Warfield and you have, of course, a copy of my letter of July 11th.~~ The points which I ~~tried~~ ^{made} to make in the statement in your office were as follows:

1. That there be no separate meetings of groups or factions either of directors or of members of the faculty or of both, but that all plans be made and all discussions be carried on openly and trustfully.
2. That there be a joint friendly conference together of the Board of Directors and Trustees to consider our common problem.
3. That a careful statement be prepared to be presented to each member of the faculty and to be accepted by him as a condition of his continuance in the work of the Seminary setting forth the necessity of reconciliation and harmony, and making it plain that it is the conviction of the General Assembly, of the Board of Directors and of the Church that peace and unity are both possible and desirable and indispensable.
4. That we have no secrets from one another or from the President of the Seminary and that there be no secret Conferences from which he is omitted.
5. That any member of the faculty who refuses to be reconciled to or to

7/30/28

pray with any fellow member of the faculty be advised quietly and of his own motion to withdraw from the work of the Seminary.

6. That we keep clearly in mind the statements as to the cause of our troubles and the assurances as to the future given to the Assembly by Dr. Warfield and Dr. McEwan, and scrupulously carry out the intinctions thus given and the instructions of the Assembly.

7. That earnest heed be given to the necessity of providing the teaching force so sorely needed in the Seminary and that we make sure that all teachers are men who believe in maintaining the peace and unity of the Church on the basis of our standards and historic principles.

Point in your paper.
Our problem is not a simple problem at all, but very much involved. There are four different elements in it:-

1. One difficulty is found in the inharmonious personalities and the lack of tolerance in the faculty. Dr. Warfield in his minority report concentrated attention on this. He dissented from the view that the root and source of the serious difficulties at Princeton is in the plan of government by two Boards and declared that in his judgment "the root and ground of the difficulties are embodied in personalities and so far as they are not embodied in personalities they are embodied in the lack of that tolerance which we so strongly claim for ourselves and so generously deny to others." This may not be the whole truth but it is truth, and so long as there is disunity and conflict in the faculty there can be no solution of the Seminary problem by any adjustments elsewhere. The Directors should require harmony and tolerance in the faculty as the condition of the continuance of the professors. Ideally, of course, the faculty should solve the problem itself, and my suggestion to Dr. Laird was that he should write to some members and I should write to others, urging them to take the initiative in effecting a true unification of mind and spirit within the faculty itself. Since our meeting Dr. Laird has written me expressing misgivings regarding our writing such letters, and I have answered him under date of July 26th. I trust he will show you both his letter and mine.

2. I think that there has been ineffectiveness in the administration of the Seminary. I pointed out at our meeting on pages 39 and 55 of the pamphlet of the Charter and the Plan sections which involved genuine confusion of function as between directors and trustees, and I think we should give further consideration to the proposal to meet these difficulties by a single board, as recommended by the Committee of Five and then by the Committee of Eleven. Perhaps antagonistic views could be reconciled by substituting for the Plan of the Committee of Eleven one Board made up by merging the present two Boards. In any case if one Board is formed, I should think that all the members of the faculty ought then to place their resignations in its hands, so that it would have entire freedom in the re-organization of the Seminary. So far as the problem of administration is a matter of clear and more satisfactory definitions of the functions of the President and faculty and their relations to the Board of Directors, it is to be hoped that the amendments of the Plan, as we discussed it together, might prove effective.

3. The third source of difficulties has been unquestionably the doctrinal discord and distrust involving, either openly or by implication, charges and suspicions with regard to the fidelity of professors under their inauguration vows. The report of the Committee of Seven of the Directors several years ago absolutely exonerated

7/30/28

all the members of the faculty in this regard, but it did not put a stop to this discord and controversy. It was followed by public statements filled with distrust and suspicion. All this simply must be cleared away in one way or another. There is, of course, and must be room for disagreement and differences of view, but within the broad loyalties of the Seminary there must be toleration and mutual confidence.

4. There is need of reenforcing and strengthening the Seminary, preserving all its undoubted *qualities* of strength and power but supplementing these. Men are needed in old Chairs and for the new Chairs who will preserve the ideal of scholarship and who will do thoroughly their work inside the walls of the Seminary, but who also will carry the influence of the Seminary out into the world and we need to recover and illustrate afresh the emphases in the introduction of the plan of the Seminary with regard to piety, unity of sentiment, spiritual devotion and pastoral training. Perhaps this is to be done by a different spirit in the whole institution, perhaps by changes in the faculty, and perhaps by changes in the curriculum.

I have put these points very inadequately. I have said a great deal more at our meeting than I have had time to incorporate here, but I know that I am only expressing your own mind in these matters, and you can add anything else that is necessary in your conferences with Dr. Laird.

Since beginning this letter I have received another letter from Dr. Laird in which he inclines somewhat more favorably to the idea of our sending a communication to some of the faculty. He asks me to prepare a draft letter, and I will try to do this, although I am not sure whether a common letter can be drafted that he and I could wisely send to representatives of both faculty groups. Still, it may be possible, and we must do everything that we can that is truly Christian. Dr. Laird says that he was leaving on Monday, that is, today, for Maine. Does the appointment of another meeting of our group for August 28th still hold? That is going to be a bad day for me. I wonder if Friday, the 24th would not suit Dr. McEwan just as well, or either Friday the 17th or Monday the 20th? If, however, it must be the week beginning the 26th, I see now that I could arrange to come for Monday, the 27th, which I understand would suit Dr. McEwan better. It may be, however, that you are throwing the whole thing over into September.

Ever affectionately yours,

RHC:

RESOLVED:

1. That there be no separate meetings of groups or factions either of directors or of members of the faculty or of both, but that all plans be made and all discussions be carried on openly and trustfully.
2. That there be a joint friendly conference together of the Boards of Directors and Trustees to consider our common problem.
3. That a careful statement be prepared to be presented to each member of the faculty and to be accepted by ^{him} ~~them~~ as a condition of his continuance in the work of the Seminary// setting forth the necessity of reconciliation and ~~future~~ harmony, and making it plain that it is the conviction of the General Assembly, of the Board of Directors and of the Church that peace and unity are both possible and desirable and indispensable.
4. That we have no secrets from one another or from the President of the Seminary and that there be no secret Conferences from which he is omitted.
5. That any member of the faculty who refuses to be reconciled to or to pray with any fellow member of the faculty be advised quietly and of his own motion to withdraw from the work of the Seminary.
6. That we keep clearly in mind the statements as to the cause of our troubles and the assurances as to the future given to the Assembly by Dr. Warfield and Dr. McEwan, and scrupulously carry out the intimations thus given and the instructions of the Assembly.
7. That earnest heed be given to the necessity of providing the teaching force so sorely needed in the Seminary and that we make sure that all teachers are men who believe in maintaining the peace and unity of the Church on the basis of our standards and historic principles.

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Recd Aug 6/1928
EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

AL
GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

August 3rd, 1928

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Bobby:-

Your good letter of July 30 is before me. I greatly appreciate your placing within the limits of a single communication, so much of real value relating to the Princeton Theological Seminary problems.

Thus far, you are the only member of the "Group of Six" who has communicated with me as the Secretary of the Group. We are not, at present, making much progress as a Group. The difficulty is, I have no doubt, the time of year.

I have been unable to secure any response from the President or the Secretary of the Board of Trustees as to the Conferees whom they have appointed to meet with the "Group of Six" representing the Directors. I have heard nothing from Dr. McEwan, although I have written him three or four times.

Laird has not communicated with me in any way.

I write the above not in any spirit of criticism but to indicate that earnest efforts to keep our endeavors in motion are unsuccessful.

You will recall that to Laird and me was given the duty of suggesting such changes in the plan of the Seminary and by-laws of the Directors as would promote the possibility of continuing the Seminary under the control of two boards with harmonious relations. I do not see how Laird and I can work this problem out with any satisfaction until we have had a conference with the representatives of the Trustees and found what their mind may be in this matter. The Board of Trustees is in no mood to accept a make shift arrangement.

As to the date of our next meeting, I will let you know a little later, but I see no reason why it should not be held on the 27th of August instead of the 28th, if it is held at all this month.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Dr. Robert E. Speer - 8/3/28 - (2)

As things look at present, I hardly know what would be accomplished by a meeting on August 27th unless Dr. McEwan obtains such information from Mr. Dickie, and you from Ed. Katzenbach as will throw greater light upon the one Board control plan. You may be sure that I will let you know as to the exact date of our next meeting just as soon as I can obtain definite information from Dr. McEwan.

Ever affectionately yours,



Stated Clerk

Edward L. Katzenbach

sub in
file

RECEIVED

S



AUG - 9 1928

Mr. Speer

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

EDWARD L. KATZENBACH

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Trenton, N.J., August 8, 1928.

Dr. Robert E. Speer, Secretary,
Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

The difficulties of the Princeton Theological Seminary should, of course, be adjusted and terminated. I am glad that a committee composed of such outstanding persons has been selected for this work. I should be very glad to meet with you some time in order to discuss this matter. I do not see exactly how the proposition could affect this office, save that the Attorney General is by common law expected to keep an eye upon funds directed to charitable uses. Perhaps none of the funds in question would be of a character where this office would be called into action. I would, however, be very glad, indeed, to arrange for a conference to discuss the matter in hand. If at the conclusion of the conference I could consistently render any assistance, I should, of course, be glad to do so.

It is, indeed, a pleasure to hear from you, and I feel it a compliment rather than otherwise to be addressed familiarly. I do not address you so as you may desire to show this letter to some one else.

May I say, however, that I had the opportunity of meeting your son, who was at the time, and I believe he is yet, the Chaplain of Lafayette College. I should be proud to have such a son.

Will you give my kind regards to Mrs. Speer, and believe me, as ever,

Very cordially yours,

Edward L. Katzenbach.

ELK/S

August 13, 1928
(Dictated August 8)

Dr. McEwan
Dr. Laird
Dr. Hodge

Dear Friends:

We have the following friendly reply from Mr. Katzenbach, the Attorney General of New Jersey:

"The difficulties of the Princeton Theological Seminary should, of course, be adjusted and terminated. I am glad that a committee composed of such outstanding persons has been selected for this work. I should be very glad to meet with you some time in order to discuss the matter. I do not see exactly how the proposition could affect this office, save that the Attorney General is by common law expected to keep an eye upon funds directed to charitable uses. Perhaps none of the funds in question would be of a character where this office would be called into action. I would, however, be very glad indeed to arrange for a conference to discuss the matter in hand. If at the conclusion of the conference I could consistently render any assistance, I should, of course, be glad to do so."

Perhaps we could arrange the next meeting of our group in Trenton and have a conference with Mr. Katzenbach at that time. Will you kindly let me know if you wish me to do anything further in the matter?

With kind regard,

Very cordially yours,

RFS/B

Dictated by Mr. Speer
Signed in his absence

8/11/28

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

AUG 11 1928

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOND BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

August 9th, 1928

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Bobby:-

I have your letter of August 7 in which you refer to matters relating to the "Group of Six" appointed by the Directors of Princeton Seminary.

I have written and wired Dr. McEwan and have, as yet, received no reply from him, of any sort, as to the date of our next meeting as a Group. As soon as I hear from him, I will let you know whether there will be any August meeting at all.

I am returning herewith the originals which you have been so kind as to share with me.

I appreciate also, very deeply, your willingness to share with me your replies.

I warmly agree that what is needed is a comprehensive plan of which all the essential elements have been made integral parts.

I do not understand why Dr. McEwan, et al, cannot see that Dr. Stevenson's resignation ought not to be expected until it is properly related to and made a part of a thoroughly constructive effort to re-establish peace and order in Princeton Seminary.

I am most fearful that what the majority of the Board of Directors are not only working for, but are expecting, is to maintain the two Board control practically as it exists at present under the present charter and plan, and with no alterations of any consequence. Many of the majority are strongly in favor of a Seminary without a President. A long step toward this ideal would be, of course, the retirement of President Stevenson and his acceptance of the Chair of Homiletics.

As I wrote you some days ago, I will let you know about the date of our Group meeting as soon as I obtain something definite from Dr. McEwan.

Ever affectionately yours,

L. S. Mudge

Stated Clerk

W. S. McEwan

Third Presbyterian Church.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

July 31, 1928.

RECEIVED
My dear Dr. Speer:

1928 - 2 1928

Mr. Speer

In accord with your suggestion,
I have written Mr. Synnott, requesting
the appointment of a Com. of the Bd
of Trustees of Princeton Sem to confer
with the Com. of the Bd of Directors -
so that a conference may be had
before the regular Oct. meeting of the
Directors.

As I review the meeting - so
pleasant & brotherly - of our Committee
(Group), I find my disappointment
remains - and my surprise, too - that
Dr Finney & Dr Mudge & you, could
not recommend Dr Stevenson - as his
friends, as well as members of the Bd -
to accept the Chair of Homiletics.

If we are to reach any con-
-structive programme, there

must needs be compromises and sacrifices and yieldings among us all. Dr Alexander has offered his resignation as President of the Bd of Directors, Dr Machin has asked leave to withdraw his acceptance of the Chair of Apologetics; we who wish to avoid litigation are trying to work out a plan by which the Trustees would feel satisfied, even to the merging of the Boards. I truly believe Dr Stevenson would be happy and useful for the rest of his life in the Chair of Homiletics. He cannot stay in the President's office without friction and strife. The lack of harmony at Princeton is a grief to me personally. It hurts the great Cause to which we rejoice

to give our 3rd lives. It seems

Third Presbyterian Church.

to me that Pittsburgh, Pa. the return
of the Spirit which you so well
described in your last section
of your remarks - and which is
necessary - can be hoped for
in no other way than by Dr
Stevenson's dimitting the Presidency.

I think I have as high personal
regard for Dr Stevenson - and even
affection - as any member of the
Board. His repeated assertions
of willingness to resign the office
of the President, public opinion,
if this would bring peace, show
that he could do so, if the
Bd should make such declara-
tions of Confidence, and so

a part of the new plan of organization without hurt to his reputation or his usefulness.

Any other course, I believe, will result in his removal from the Presidency after a struggle.

More than one member of Dr Thompson's Committee has expressed the judgment that his resignation would be necessary in a reorganization.

I am gardening and putting up hay on the farm and trying to stay in the open to build up for the winter.

My address here is

Box 449

Meadville Pa

With fraternal greetings

your friend Wm. L. Egan

RECEIVED

JUL 30 1928

~~Spec~~

Robert E. Speer, D.D.
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

John B. Laird
FRANKFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FRANKFORD AVE. AND CHURCH ST.
PHILADELPHIA

July 28, 1928.

Al

My dear Dr. Speer:

I have read and re-read your letter of July 26th, and am deeply impressed with its contents. I find myself heartily in accord with practically everything that you say, and largely through it I am more hopeful of the outcome, though the problem as you state it is a difficult, almost an impossible one. I agree that no reorganization of administration or shifting about of Professors will get anywhere so long as there are personal differences and lack of confidence among those who administer and teach.

How would it be for you to formulate a letter, stating that it is the purpose of the Group to deal with the matter in a comprehensive way? But as a preliminary step, a step that is necessary before anything of a permanent character can be accomplished, we ask that these men, the four whom we have named, shall each seek of the other such a reconciliation as shall certainly place them upon a basis of friendship and willingness to cooperate, so far as personal matters are concerned, in the service of Christ and the work of the Seminary. When you have formulated this letter, and we have agreed as to its contents, then both of us sign it and send it to each of these men. I am sure that the letter which you construct will be satisfactory to me.

I am exceedingly anxious as I know you are that we shall make haste, so that the work of the Seminary may be resumed in its normal way.

I am leaving on Monday for Maine, but my mail will be forwarded to me, and I shall always be accessible.

With kindest regards, I am

very cordially yours,

John B. Laird

Dr Robert Speer -

Wm L. McEwan Ackd 8/13/28
Meadville Pa Aug 10/28

My dear Friend -

13

Mr. Symnott writes that he has taken the matter under consideration of appointing a committee of the Bd of Trustees for conference.

906 SOUTH NEGLEY AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Dr. Mudge has written me that you find it difficult to attend the 28th August. I have written that Friday Aug 24 or Monday Aug 27 will be practicable for me -

Also I have written Dr Mudge that in view of conditions - especially the uncertainty as to the time a conference may be had between the committees of the two Bds - it would, in my judgment, be wise to write to the members of our Group suggesting the postponement of the Aug 28 meeting until some day in September, say during the week from Sept 9 - 16. If this meets Dr Mudge's judgment, you will hear from him -

If I had known you were at Coushatta Lake, I would have driven over to see you and hear you -

The farm life, with my family all well and interested, is a delight. Morning and evening have their special beauty and witness -

I hope you can get some rest from the too strenuous life you have to lead -

Your friend

William L. McEwan

RECEIVED

AUG 11 1928

Mr. Speer



Edward L. Katzenbach

Post card acknowledgment
8/11/28

[Handwritten signature/initials]

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EDWARD L. KATZENBACH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Trenton, N.J., August 10, 1928.

Dr. Robert E. Speer, Secretary,
Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Ave., New York City.

My dear Friend:

I will not be able to arrange a conference with you for at least two weeks. Perhaps it might be altogether better if I suggest that I should meet with you sometime after the middle of September. If Dr. Mudge would care to be present at the time that would be entirely agreeable to me, as I always liked him very much. The letter which I wrote you the other day indicated that I would be immediately available to meet you, but circumstances have altered somewhat, and I cannot do so just at present. From what I understand of your letter, it will perhaps make no material difference to you.

Meantime, with kind regards, I am

Very cordially yours,

Edward L. Katzenbach

ELK/S

John B. Larr

Ackd 8/24/28

WYONEGONIC INN
NORTH BRIDGTON, MAINE

Amo

Aug 11/1928

My dear Mr. Green.

I have your letter and am glad to sign it with you and send it to the persons named.

In reading it I have thought that the fourth paragraph of the letter should be made a little more definite. I do not want there to whom the letter is addressed or any others to get the impression that to bring about what the letter contemplates is our only task in order to put the work of the Seminary on a harmonious basis. This is fundamental

WYONEGONIC INN
NORTH BRIDGTON, MAINE

But in my judgment it is not
sufficient.

Would it not be well to say in that
fourth paragraph

That this being done, the group will
be enabled to proceed to recommend
to the Board such ~~necessary~~ changes
and readjustments in the Administrative
and teaching ^{as} ~~the~~ will most surely
make for sound and efficiency.

It is some such statement as
the above that I would like to have em-
bodied in the letter.

I think that the sooner the letter goes
out the better. You are authorized to
affix my name. I hope however that you will
see your way to include in the letter the sentiment
I have requested. Respectfully,
Conrad W. Wain

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

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LCO = Deferred Cable

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The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

G193CC 4S 56 NL XU

Acknowledged 8/15/128

stating copy had been sent
to Dr. Spear - S.C.B.

BUCKHILLFALLS PENN AUG 14 1928

DR R E SPEER

156 FIFTH AVE NEWYORK NY

CHAIRMAN MCEWAN DIRECTS POSTPONMENT OF MEETING. APPOINTED FOR AUGUST
TWENTY EIGHT UNTIL WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER NINTH HE REQUESTS EACH
MEMBER OF GROUP TO WIRE UNDERSIGNED WHAT DAY OF SAID WEEK HE DEEMS
MOST CONVENIENT FOR NEXT GROUP MEETING LETTER FOLLOWS EXPLAINING REASON
FOR POSTPONMENT OF OUR NEXT MEETING UNTIL SEPTEMBER PLEASE WIRE ME AT
BUCKHILLFALLS PENNSYLVANIA

LEWIS S MUDGE

349P

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Aug 15, 1928

Dear Bobby

Your letter addressed to Dr McGowan,
Lund & Mudge & dated Aug 13 is just received

I shall be glad to meet Attorney
General Ketzenbach of N. Y. whenever you find it
possible to arrange an interview with him
on behalf of representatives of the Group of Six
Perhaps we could see him together before Dr McGowan
returns home from Story Brook Conference. Could you
reach him there by telephone & were we at
Buenos Aires Falls

Ever affectionately yours
L. S. Mudge

Duplicate

August 20, 1928

Dr. John L. Laird, D.D.,
315 Frankford Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Laird:

I was very sorry to learn from your niece yesterday of your very painful attack of inflammatory rheumatism which had held you up here in the city on your way home. I trust that you have got home now in comfort and that there will be no recurrence of the suffering.

I was away from New York all week and did not receive until this morning your letter of August 11th from Maine. I have read the proposed letter to the four members of the faculty incorporating your suggestion and attach the revised draft hereto as a postscript. Will you please go over it and make any further suggestions and let us have it back before the end of the week?

In order that we may all be sure that we are acting wisely, I am venturing to send a copy of the letter as now revised both to Dr. McEwan and to Dr. Mudge to ask them whether they think that it is best that you and I should sign it or that Dr. McEwan should do so in behalf of the whole group.

With warm regards,

Very cordially, W. A. D.

/B

P.S. -

Dr. Stevenson,
Dr. Erdman
Dr. Armstrong
Dr. Menden

Dear Friends:

At your request the Board of Directors of the Seminary at a special meeting in June appointed a group of six members of the Board to study the problems now before the Board by action of the General Assembly and to report to the Board as soon as possible a comprehensive plan for meeting the difficulties which have arisen in the Seminary and for assuring its future harmony and efficiency. The group realizes the gravity of this responsibility and it does not deceive itself with the thought that the task is an easy or simple one. It recognizes that many serious and perplexing elements are involved.

But the group believes that some things in the problem are clear and simple. No solution can be found, whatever is done, unless the breaches in the faculty can be healed and unless the members of the faculty can work together in unity and trust. We do not know how this can be brought about but we hope that it can and we believe that it must.

We two members of the group who sign this are asking bold to ask you four to whom this letter is addressed if you will not, one or some or all of you take the lead in effecting a complete reconciliation in the faculty, with any expressions of sorrow or forgiveness or true understanding that may be involved among yourselves? Is this not the right Christian method of dealing with the situation according to our Lord's word - Matthew V:23-24 and Matthew XVIII:15?

We do not say that there are not other things that should be done. We think that there are and that the Board of Directors should deal with them, but is this not the first thing and if this were done would not all else be made far easier? And this being done it seems to us that the group appointed by the Directors will be enabled to proceed to recommend to the Board such changes and readjustments in the administration and teaching of the Seminary as will most surely make for concord and efficiency.

We make this appeal in great earnestness and prayer and humility for the sake of the Seminary and for the sake of the Church and we believe for Christ's sake.

Your sincere friends,

August 20, 1928

Rev. J. L. McEwan, D.D.
Rev. Lewis S. Hodge, D.D.

Dear Friends:

I have heard from Dr. Laird with regard to the proposed letter to be sent to Dr. Stevenson, Dr. Erdman, Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Lichen. He writes as follows:

"I have your letter and am glad to sign it with you and send it to the persons named.

In reading it I have thought that the fourth paragraph of the letter should be made a little more definite. I do not want these to whom the letter is addressed, or any others, to get the impression that to bring about what the letter contemplates is our whole task in order to put the seminary on a harmoniously working basis. This is fundamental but in my judgment it is not sufficient. Would it not be well to say in that fourth paragraph - That this being done the group will be enabled to proceed to recommend to the Board such changes and readjustments in the administration and teaching as will most surely make for concord and efficiency.

It is some such statement as the above that I would like to have embodied in the letter.

I think that the sooner the letter goes out the better. You are authorized to affix my name. I hope, however, that you will see your way to include in the letter the sentiment I have expressed."

In accordance with his suggestion I have redrafted the letter and enclose a copy of my letter of today to Dr. Laird embodying his proposed revision in the letter to these members of the faculty.

As you see Dr. Laird suggests that the sooner the letter goes the better I would raise again the question accordingly whether it would not be better for Dr. McEwan to send this letter in behalf of the whole group than for Dr. Laird and me to sign it in this semi-personal, semi-official way. If it is best to send it so we are quite willing to sign it, but if it seems to both of you better that Dr. McEwan should send it I trust that he will assume the responsibility at once of doing so, making such changes as may seem to him wise.

I am going away again at the end of this week to be gone for several weeks and if Dr. Laird and I are to sign the letter I should hear from both of you by Friday morning.

With regard to the proposed meeting of the group in September in the week beginning the ninth, I am sorry to have to say that I shall be away in New England then and would have to make a special trip back for any meeting. If in your judgment, however, a meeting is necessary I could come for September 13th or 14th.

With regard to a conference with Attorney General Katzenbach, I have received the following letter from him:

"I would not be able to arrange a conference with you for at least two weeks. Perhaps it might be altogether better if I suggest that I should meet with you some time after the middle of September. If Dr. Mudge would care to be present at the time that would be entirely agreeable to me, as I always liked him very much. The letter which I wrote you the other day indicated that I would be immediately available to meet you, but circumstances have altered somewhat, and I cannot do so just at present. From what I understand of your letter, it will perhaps make no material difference to you."

If the meeting of our group is called for September 13th or 14th, would it not be well if at least Dr. Mudge and I should arrange to see Dr. Katzenbach if possible before our meeting.

I gather from one of Dr. Mudge's last letters that he doubts whether we can go much further until we have first had a conference with the committee of the Board of Trustees. Is there any possibility of such a meeting in the near future?

I am sending this letter in duplicate to each of you at both of your addresses - to Dr. McEwan at Meadville, Pa. and The Stony Brook Assembly, Stony Brook, Long Island; and to Dr. Mudge at Backhill Falls and at the Witherspoon Building.

With warm regard,

Sincerely yours,

FFS/B

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

August 20, 1928

Rev. John B. Laird, D.D.,
4315 Frankford Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Dr. Laird:

I was very sorry to learn from your neice yesterday of your very painful attack of inflammatory rheumatism which had held you up here in the city on your way home. I trust that you have got home now in comfort and that there may be no recurrence of the suffering.

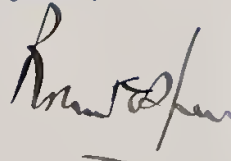
I was away from New York all week and did not receive until this morning your letter of August 11th from Maine. I have redrafted the proposed letter to the four members of the faculty incorporating your suggestion and attach the revised draft hereto as a postscript. Will you please go over it and make any further suggestions and let me have it back before the end of the week?

In order that we may make sure that we are acting wisely I am venturing to send a copy of the letter as now revised both to Dr. McEwan and to Dr. Mudge to ask them whether they think that it is best that you and I should sign it or that Dr. McEwan should do so in behalf of the whole group?

With warm regard,

Very cordially yours,

RES/B



P.S. -

Dr. Stevenson,
Dr. Erdman
Dr. Armstrong
Dr. Machen

Dear Friends:

As you know the Board of Directors of the Seminary at a special meeting in June appointed a group of six members of the Board to study the problems now before the Board by action of the General Assembly and to report to the Board as soon as possible a comprehensive plan for meeting the difficulties which have arisen in the Seminary and for assuring its future harmony and efficiency. The group realizes the gravity of this responsibility and it does not deceive itself with the thought that the task is an easy or simple one. It recognizes that many serious and perplexing elements are involved.

But the group believes that some things in the problem are clear and simple. No solution can be found, whatever is done, unless the breaches in the faculty can be healed and unless the members of the faculty can work together in unity and trust. We do not know how this can be brought about but we hope that it can and we believe that it must.

We two members of the group who sign this are making bold to ask you four to whom this letter is addressed if you will not, one or some or all of you take the lead in effecting a complete reconciliation in the faculty, with any expressions of sorrow or forgiveness or true understanding that may be involved among yourselves? Is this not the right Christian method of dealing with the situation according to our Lord's word - Matthew V:23-24 and Matthew XVIII:15?

We do not say that there are not other things that should be done. We think that there are and that the Board of Directors should deal with them, but is this not the first thing and if this were done would not all else be made far easier? And this being done it seems to us that the group appointed by the Directors will be enabled to proceed to recommend to the Board such changes and readjustments in the administration and teaching of the Seminary as will most surely make for concord and efficiency.

We make this appeal in great earnestness and prayer and humility for the sake of the Seminary and for the sake of the Church and we believe for Christ's sake.

Your sincere friends,



Wm L. McEwan

THE STONY BROOK ASSEMBLY HOTELS
STONY BROOK, LONG ISLAND
NEW YORK

Aug 26, 1928 S

Dear Dr Spurr:

I have written Dr Mudge -

(1) That Tuesday Sept 11 is the only day of the week Sept 9-16 that I can attend a meeting of the Group. The 13 & 14 are inconvenient as they clash with duties preceding communion services in our Church.

(2) I have suggested postponement of meeting to some day in week 16-23 & named Tuesday 18 - Thursday 20 - Friday 21 as best for me.

(3) In the matter of signing the letter to certain members of the Faculty - I have suggested - that if I sign it officially as chairman it might be better to send to all the members of the Faculty - and not discriminate. That if I sign it - I would state - "at the request & by the authority of the Group". And I have authorized Dr Mudge to affix my signature if he hears that you to him think this best

Very
Humbly Yrs
William L. McEwan

Friday & Saturday I expect to be in
White Plains N.Y. with Mr. Harrison.
Sunday m. Newark at Dr. Inglis'
Church. Then Meadville Pa
h 2 hr

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

August 22, 1928

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Bobby:-

Your letter dated August 20 and addressed to Dr. McEwan and me is just received. I warmly approve of the contents of the letter prepared by Dr. Laird and you for transmission to Drs. Stevenson, Erdman, Armstrong and Machen.

Furthermore, I am decidedly of the opinion that you are right in believing that it will be better for Dr. McEwan to send this letter on behalf of the whole Group than for Dr. Laird and you to transmit it over your signatures. It would seem to me that this letter, over Dr. McEwan's signature, as the duly elected chairman of the officially appointed Group of the Board of Directors, would of necessity carry more weight than the same letter when sent over the signature of two individual members of the Group even though said two members may be considered a sub-committee of the Group.

With reference to the next meeting of the Group of Six, I find an unfortunate difference of opinion as to the most desirable day during the week beginning Sept. 9. Dr. Finney will not return from Nova Scotia in time to meet with us that week and Dr. Warfield will be so occupied at Wilson College during the following week that Dr. Finney's suggestion for meeting then seems impracticable. Furthermore, to postpone the meeting beyond the limits of the week beginning September 9 seems unfortunate, unless absolutely necessary. So far as I can gather from letters received, September 13 and 14 are possible dates, for all the members of the committee, excepting Dr. Finney, but are, for the members other than yourself, not the most desired dates. However, I see no reason why we cannot assemble on either September 13 or September 14 as suggested by you, as no one of the Group, excepting Dr. Finney, has declared absolute inability so far as one or the other of these two dates is concerned.

Please, therefore, be so kind as to wire me to Buck Hill Falls upon receipt of this letter, which of these dates, namely September 13 and September 14, you personally prefer for the next meeting of our Group and, upon the basis of the authority conferred upon me by Dr. McEwan, I will call a meeting of the Group for the date you name in your telegram. (See note opposite. No necessity for wiring me)

*Later - I find Sept 14 will
not suit Dr. Warfield. Therefore
it seems as if September 13
is the best available date in that week.*

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Dr. Robert E. Speer 8/22/28 - 2

I note what you say in your letter of August 20 addressed to Dr. McEwan and me regarding a conference with Attorney General Katzenbach. I will gladly call with you to see the Attorney General on any date you may select in September. I suggest, however, in view of the questions we are likely to present to him for his opinion, that it will be well to have in our company someone of our Group who has been associated with the two board control view.

Probably Dr. Laird would be available to accompany us.

Ever affectionately yours,

Stated Clerk

Your letter enclosing copy for letter of invitation to fifteen women on behalf of General Council is just received here at Buck Tree Falls. I will attend to this matter as soon as possible

Aug 22, 1928

L. S. M.

John B. Baird

FRANKFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FRANKFORD AVE. AND CHURCH ST.
PHILADELPHIA

[Handwritten initials]

August 22, 1928.

Robert E. Speer, D.D.
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I finally reached Philadelphia, and have been confined to my room with a rather stubborn attack of inflammatory rheumatism. There are now however, some evidences of it's abatement, and I have good hopes of being around again in a few days. I thank you for your very great interest as expressed in your letter, and to my niece, who heard you with so great pleasure on Sunday Morning, preaching on the declarations of our Saviour. "Thou Art:" Thou Shalt Be."

I have read carefully the suggested letter and approve of it in it's entirety. I am returning it herewith, and will be happy to sign it with you, or just as happy to have it sent over Dr. McEwan's name.

Very Cordially Yours,

[Handwritten signature: J. B. Baird]

August 27, 1928

Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D.D.
Buck Hill Falls, Pa.

My dear Dr. Mudge:

Your two letters of August 24th are received - one enclosing letter from Dr. McEwan and the other addressed to the Members of the Group of Six, regarding the date for a meeting of the group.

I think Dr. Speer's letter of August 24th to you, enclosing copies of letters to Mr. Katzenbach and Dr. Laird, may in part answer these letter but since he will only be at Lakeville until tomorrow evening I am forwarding the same to him for his information.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs. C.P.)

Office of Dr. Robert E. Speer

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

RECEIVED

August 24, 1928

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX:

Dear Brethren:-

Last evening the undersigned sent a Night Letter to each of you stating that he had found it impossible to obtain a well attended meeting of the Group during the period of September 9th - September 23rd, inclusive (still later information extended this period three days, to September 26, inclusive). During this period there was no day on which more than four of our number could conveniently convene for business.

As our next meeting ought to be of considerable importance it is certainly undesirable to spend time and money in assembling when the results achieved would be of relatively small moment. Moreover, your Secretary is doubtful whether it is worth while for our Group to meet until several of the lines of investigation, already initiated, have been carried to reasonably successful conclusions. Your secretary has in mind:

First. Dr. McEwan's conference with Mr. Dickie of Pittsburgh.

Second. The conference of Dr. Speer, et al, with the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey.

Third. The meeting of our Group as a Conference Committee appointed by the President of our Board of Directors, with the Conference Committee appointed by the Board of Trustees, as requested by our Board at its meeting last June.

Fourth. The report upon the results obtained from the sending to the Faculty of the Seminary or to selected members of the same of the letter prepared by Drs. Speer and Laird.

Will we not best make substantial progress by pressing on along these four lines before assembling to report upon results. Especially would I make bold to urge the importance of our Chairman securing a conference with the representatives of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Laird and I cannot report on ways and means relating to the continuance of two Board control until this conference is held.

Awaiting from each of you such comments upon the above as may seem to you to be helpful, believe me

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Mudge

Stated Clerk

Lewis S. Mudge.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

RECEIVED

August 24, 1928

Mr. Speer
Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Bobby:-

Enclosed please find a letter received recently from Dr. McEwan. When you have read it kindly return it for our files.

I do not know what Dr. McEwan has written to you with reference to the proposed letter prepared by Dr. Laird and you, for this reason I am sending you Dr. McEwan's letter.

I await your action in this matter, however, it would seem clear that if Dr. McEwan's suggestions are to be followed in their entirety, this letter should be submitted to all the members of our Group for their approval before it is sent to the Faculty, or to selected members thereof, over Dr. McEwan's signature as our chairman.

I am writing you this letter from Buck Hill Falls where I expect to be continuously until September 7.

Ever affectionately yours,

L. S. Mudge

THE STONY BROOK ASSEMBLY HOTELS
STONY BROOK, LONG ISLAND
NEW YORK

August 20/28

My dear Dr Mudge:

I have your telegram & letter, in re
meeting of Princeton Group. - also copy of Dr Spur's
letter to Dr Lains of date Aug 20, copy of which was
sent to you and me.

- (1) I fear Lains' illness will interfere with our
meetings
- (2) I can only come on Tuesday, Sept 11, of the
week from 9-11. I can not meet 13th
or 14th as suggested by Dr Spur, for
there are preparatory dates to communion
in our church.
- (3) I suggest postponement of date again,
and for the following week - Sept 16-23.
I can come Tuesday 18 - Thursday
20th - or Friday 21st.
- (4) I see no reason for the whole group
to meet the attorney-general. You and
Dr Spur would be sufficient. Please
bear in mind ~~that~~ that some of us
still hope to make such changes as
will be satisfactory and keep Two Board.

(2)

THE STONY BROOK ASSEMBLY HOTELS
STONY BROOK, LONG ISLAND

NEW YORK

(5) As to the letter to be sent to ^{Certain} ~~the~~ members of the Faculty — if I sign it, it seems to me better that it should go to all the members of the Faculty & so not make the impression that some are omitted and some in special need of counsel. I dislike to have you under the necessity of so much correspondence with men who are moving from place to place about such details as who should sign the letter. If you hear from Speer & Laird that they prefer ~~me~~ to have me sign the letter officially, I authorize you to affix my signature, with the statement — "Requested and authorized by the Group of Six Members of the Bd of Directors"

Regretting to cause you so much trouble,
Your friend
William Lill Hoar.

I leave here to-morrow. Medville for 2 weeks

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RECEIVED
JUL 31 1928
Mr. Mudge
EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

August 28th, 1928

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Bobby:-

Your letter of August 24th, with its enclosures has reached me here at Buck Hill Falls. Thank you for sharing with me your letter to the Attorney General of N. J., and your letter to Dr. Laird dated August 24.

A letter from Dr. Laird to me, under date of August 28, urging a meeting of our Group for September 20, is enclosed. I am also enclosing a copy of my reply to Dr. Laird in response to the suggestion.

I will inform you immediately when the next meeting of our Group is planned.

I trust that you will have a good rest during the weeks immediately before you. Certainly your indefatigable labors warrant your obtaining a real vacation.

Ever affectionately,

Lewis S. Mudge

Stated Clerk

FRANKFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FRANKFORD AVE. AND CHURCH ST.
PHILADELPHIA

August 28, 1928.

The Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D.D.,
Buck Hill Falls, Penna.

Dear Dr. Mudge:

I am in the city today, and have your telegrams and letters before me with reference to the time of our group meeting. I regret greatly these postponements. Time is passing and we are doing practically nothing. It is not yet clear in my mind why we did not meet August 28th. I learned yesterday that September 20th will suit Dr. Speer and Dr. McEwan. This date will be convenient for me. I hope that the meeting may be held that week rather than the following. What the Board of Trustees means by taking no official cognizance of our request is hard for me to understand. It will be hard to explain to the other members of our Board, as well as to many in the church, why a matter of such urgency should be treated with such indifference, and a group appointed, should be so dilatory in acting. Dr. Speer spoke at the last meeting of the need of immediate reconstruction of the Faculty, and I had hoped that a meeting of our group as appointed for the latter part of August or early September might open the way for doing something along this line; since Dr. George Johnson has refused to continue the work next year. Let us have this group meeting as soon as possible. I have been reviewing in my mind what we have accomplished, and I can recall nothing of a substantial character. The group is not united, one half has misunderstood its own action, and we seem to be just wobbling around. I am ready to quit at any time, but am unwilling to agree to anymore postponements.

Very Cordially Yours,



The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

August 29th, 1928

Rev. John R. Laird, D. D.,
Frankford Presbyterian Church,
Frankford Ave. and Church St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.,

My dear Laird:-

Your letter of August 20 is just received. No one is more restive than I over the lack of progress our Group of Six is making in the important tasks assigned it.

I have devoted a very considerable number of hours of my summer vacation to correspondence in an endeavor to advance the work of our Group. So far as my conscience is my judge, I feel that I have left no stone unturned to secure progress. It seems, however, that advance has been blocked on every side.

The meeting of August 28 was abandoned, first, because it seemed probable that only Dr. McKim and you and I could possibly be present; and second, because there seemed no real business that those assembled could transact if they met.

So far as I know now, it is probable that all of the members of our Group could meet on September 20 except Dr. Warfield. Dr. Warfield, however, has made an earnest request that we do not meet between the 16th and 26th as his college duties are so imperative over that period as to make it impossible for him to be with us. In view of his earnest request to this effect, we have hesitated to call a meeting during that period. If, however, it should seem desirable, in spite of Dr. Warfield's necessary absence, to gather, I am heartily in sympathy with having that meeting on September 20th as you suggest.

I wonder whether you would be willing to write to Dr. Warfield and obtain his reaction to the suggestion that we should hold the meeting on September 20 in his necessary absence. If he is agreeable to such an arrangement as above remarked, I believe that the other five members of the Group could be gotten together on September 20.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Rev. John R. Laird, D. D., 8/29/28 - (2)

I have been sorry to learn from a letter received from Dr. McEwan that you have not been well. I earnestly hope that you are quite yourself again.

With every good wish and assuring you of my earnest eagerness to finish the work noted to our Group, believe me

Yours sincerely,

Stated Clerk

August 31, 1928

Rev. William L. McEwan, D.D.
Meadville, Pa.

My dear Mr. McEwan:

Dr. Mudge has sent me a letter which he had received from Dr. Laird and I have a brief note from Dr. Warfield, in which they speak of their regret at the slow progress which we are making in the settlement of the Seminary problem. If there is anything further that I can do at any time to help you in your leadership in the matter, please let me know.

I will endeavor to see Attorney General Katzenbach before the next meeting of our group and should be glad to have word as to when that meeting will be as soon as possible so that I can arrange an appointment with Mr. Katzenbach.

In accordance with the understanding with which we adjourned our meeting on July 19th, I wrote to Dr. Mudge, as I understood we were each desired to do, making what suggestions I could. I had already written to him on the subject prior to our meeting. I venture to enclose herewith to you copies of both letters of July 11th and July 30th.

I expect to be away from New York this month of September, or a good part of it, and will have to come back from New England specially for any meeting, but will do so if necessary.

If you have not yet heard from Mr. Synott or Dr. McDowell with regard to the appointment of a committee by the Trustees to meet with our group would it not be well to write to them again making an earnest appeal in the hope that they may be able to find a way to appoint at least an informal committee that could meet with us before the meeting of the Directors on October 9th.

With warm regard,

Your sincere friend,

RIS/B

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

September 4, 1928.

My dear Robert:-

Your letter of August 24th, so full of sympathetic solicitude and good will, has been given earnest and prayerful thought. My first impulse was to propose a conference of the four Faculty members to whom you and Dr. McEwan have written, that is Drs. Hodge, Armstrong, Erdman and myself. I would be quite willing to take the initiative and invite such a conference could I be persuaded that real good would come of it. The four of us, so far as our personal relations are concerned, could in a superficial way, meet as friends, have congenial fellowship, and yet back of it all would be differing opinions and attitudes as to Seminary troubles and problems. Dr. Macartney once declared that the agitation in Princeton Seminary is a repercussion of what has been going on in the Church, and while the Directors have no doubt been influenced by the spirit of the Faculty, on the other hand, the majority of the Directors have tolerated and encouraged a situation wherein professors have been permitted to sit in judgment on their colleagues and discriminate against them. According to the Plan the responsibility for the spirit of the Seminary rests primarily, if not wholly, with the Directors. If a father and mother are at variance and in consequence the children become divided, the way to reunite the family circle is not for the parents to call upon the sons and daughters to adjust their differences first. The situation in the Faculty is a counterpart of the mind and temper which has taken possession of the Directors. Any agitation or bitterness which has arisen in the Faculty has been condoned, if not endorsed by the partisan spirit of men belonging to the governing Board. I have recently received an insulting letter from such an one who as a Director is in close association with Faculty members, encouraging them to mutiny against the President and to rebellion against the Board and Agencies of the Church and against the General Assembly itself.

The Faculty members are the creatures of the Board of Directors and reflect the animus of that body, and it seems to me to be futile to attempt reconciliation, good will and close harmony among the professors if those higher up are encouraging a spirit of bitterness and alienation, to say nothing of vindictiveness.

As President of the Seminary I have tried in conference and in prayer to conciliate the one Faculty member who as he himself concedes has been the occasion for the agitation here in the Seminary. Dr. McCune, at the instigation of the students and supported by their united prayers, tried to serve as a mediator in connection with a special day of prayer. Dr. Thompson's Committee with the utmost gentleness, patience and firmness tried to induce the so-called majority of the Faculty to concede the orthodoxy and loyalty of their colleague, but all to no purpose. Those who have held out against any healing of the breach have been conscious of the support of the majority of the Board of Directors.

If you and Dr. McEwan could come in the name of a united Board

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MODERATOR

REV. HUGH KELSO WALKER, D.D., LL.D.
LOS ANGELES, CAL.

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PHILADELPHIA, PA.

STATED CLERK

LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

VICE-MODERATOR

REV. JOSEPH M. BROADY, D.D.
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

TREASURER

REAL ESTATE-LAND TITLE AND TRUST CO.
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

October 6, 1928

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Bobby:

I have your letter of October 4th, written in my office. I am very sorry that my engagement at Newville, Pennsylvania, prevented my being on hand to greet you. I have taken note of your suggestions as to changes in the report of Group Meeting No. 4. The record you desire made of Dr. Erdman's letter to you I will, of course, insert.

I do not like the phrase "a form of words" any more than you do. I was endeavoring in its use, however, to be as non-committal as possible for fear I might use some adjective which would offend someone.

Your suggestion as to Sheet 12, Paragraph 5, is excellent. Yesterday I was in Trenton on other business and stopped in at Mr. Katzenbach's office. Fortunately though he was out I was able to confer with Mr. Rudner. I brought to his attention each one of the five points in which I endeavored to summarize our interview. Mr. Rudner confirms these five statements as reflecting with accuracy what Mr. Katzenbach and he have in mind.

I do not recall that we agreed to withdraw our recommendation of a previous meeting with regard to the immediate nomination of professors to the vacant posts in the Faculty. I have examined my original pencil notes and do not find it there recorded. Dr. Stevenson is I know exceedingly anxious that this recommendation should be recalled, but if my memory serves me right and my notes are accurate no decision was reached with reference to a recall. Certainly if I am mistaken in this the record should be made accurate.

I have noted also your kind suggestions as to the proposed report to the Board of Directors and will make the changes you indicate.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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-2-

Yesterday I went over to Trenton at the earnest solicitation of Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman and met them for a luncheon conference at the Stacy-Trent. They were kind enough to come as far as Trenton to save my time. Although we talked over a number of the outstanding points at issue the only thing which seemed to be especially on their minds was that which you referred to at the close of your letter written in my office on October 4th, namely, "an affirmation of trust in one another's doctrinal loyalty." When I read the close of your letter it almost made me jump for my mind had been running back repeatedly during the last few days to the very declaration of the Board of Directors to which you there make reference. I, therefore, suggested to Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman that they should include in the Faculty statement which they would advocate at the Faculty meeting a paragraph which would embody this declaration of the Board of Directors. This certainly would bring the Faculty face to face with the opinion of the Board of Directors in the premises and would compel their definite acceptance or rejection of it.

I am very hopeful that constructive results will be obtained from this endeavor to secure the Faculty statement signed by all the members of the Faculty even though such unanimity is not forthcoming. Certainly certain forms of statement if rejected by certain members of the Faculty will be most revealing as to what the actual points of difference are in that body. Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman called my attention to the fact that since the Board of Directors issued the statement after careful investigation with which you close your letter of October 4th, to me, Dr. Machen, Dr. Robert Dick Wilson, Dr. Courtland Robinson and Dr. Frank Stevenson have all issued carefully prepared documents which flatly contradict the findings of the Board of Directors as does also the so called Princeton Petition presented at the last General Assembly which Petition certainly was not discouraged in any way by the majority of the Board of Directors.

I have written somewhat at length because I didnot

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-3-

believe I would have a chance to see you before our
meeting next Tuesday morning in Princeton, at nine o'clock.

Ever affectionately yours,


Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

October 13, 1928. *S*

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Bobby:

I have your letter of October 11th. You have doubtless by this time received a copy of the record of Conference #5 and have noted in it copies of the two statements which you desire. I am delighted to know that you had so fine an opportunity to discuss matters with Judge Fox.

I called on Mr. Synnott last Thursday afternoon and endeavored to prepare his mind as far as I could for a favorable reception of the approach of the Group of Six to the Board of Trustees. I fear little or no impression was made. At every favorable opportunity he reiterated that the only proper way of meeting the situation at Princeton was one Board, constituted as recommended by the majority of the Committee of Eleven. From what Mr. Pugh tells me I fear also that Dr. McDowell is taking the same attitude.

Ever affectionately yours,

L. S. Mudge
Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

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PHILADELPHIA, PA.

VICE-MODERATOR

REV. JOSEPH M. BROADY, D.D.
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

October 15, 1928

TREASURER

REAL ESTATE-LAND TITLE AND TRUST CO.
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Bobby:

I am this day forwarding to each member of our Group of Six a copy of the legislative act, the amended charter and Mr. Latzenbach's accompanying letter, all of which were in my possession as Secretary of our Group at our meeting on October 9th, last. I have written to Mr. Katzenbach the enclosed letter and am sending you a copy of it for your files.

Ever affectionately yours,

Lewis S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

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PHILADELPHIA, PA.

October 15, 1928

COPY

Honorable Edward L. Katzenbach,
Counsellor at Law,
Trenton, N.J.

My dear Mr. Katzenbach:

We are under great obligations to you for your prompt attention to the request of our Group of Six represented by Dr. Speer and myself for a copy of a general legislative act and of an amended charter, each in tentative form for presentation to the Board of Directors of Princeton Seminary. These were duly received together with your helpful letter which accompanied them and were presented to the Board of Directors at its meeting on Tuesday October 9th. The Board recommitted them to our Group of Six for further consideration.

I have this day had copies made of the general legislative act, the amended charter and your letter and have mailed them to each member of our Group of Six for their careful study. Our Group will meet again November 12th, just prior to a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Princeton Seminary. Until we have had this conference, which as a Group authorized to represent the Board of Directors, we are planning to have on the afternoon of November 12th, with the Board of Trustees in meeting duly assembled, further progress in our endeavors to secure united action looking toward the erection of a single Board of Control, cannot well be made. Just as soon as further efforts of a constructive character are possible you will hear from Dr. Speer and me.

With much appreciation of your very valuable aid and wishing to include in our thanks to you our appreciation of the cooperation of Mr. Louis Rudner, believe me

Yours sincerely,

Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

October 17, 1928

Rev. William I. McEwan, D.D.
 Rev. John B. Laird, D.D.,
 Dr. J. M. T. Finney,
 Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D.D.,
 President E. D. Warfield,

Dear Friends:

At the last meeting of the Group, after the communications from the Faculty had been presented and there had been general discussion, I was instructed to put into written form a statement of what appeared to be the consensus of opinion of the Group. I have endeavored to do so in the statement attached to this letter as a postscript. I am not at all sure that I have succeeded in carrying out my instructions and should be very grateful if you will make any corrections or suggestions.

Very sincerely yours,

RES/B

P.S. - The Group of Six received the communication of the Faculty reporting that no one of the statements proposed in the conference of the Group with the Faculty on September 27th, and in its subsequent letter to the Faculty could obtain unanimous approval at the meeting of the Faculty on October 6th and reporting also that the Faculty was unable to formulate any other statement which all its members could approve.

The Group expresses its deep regret at this situation. It has earnestly hoped that the Faculty would be able to agree upon some brotherly and harmonious statement which would express regret for the things said and done, which may have contributed to create the conditions of the past, and that whatever might have seemed to any member of the Faculty unjust or untrue might have been withdrawn and that a general spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation and mutual confidence might have come to prevail. If, however, there are some members of the Faculty who do not feel that they can conscientiously make these avowals it is not within the province of the Group to go further in the matter of pressing for such statements. The Group believes, however, that it is within its province and its duty to recommend to the Board of Directors:

1. That all the members of the Faculty be advised that there should be no public criticism by any member of the Faculty of any fellow member of the Faculty, or of any of the Boards of the Seminary.

2. That there must be harmonious cooperation in the Faculty in all the work of the Seminary.

3. That the Board of Directors reaffirm its declaration of October 13, 1925 adopted in the recommendation of the Committee of the Board after careful investigation of the whole situation as follows:

"Your Committee has found every member of the Faculty entirely loyal to the standards of our Church and to the pledge required by the Seminary. There is no room for doubt or criticism as to the faith or teaching of any professor or instructor in the Seminary. Such differences as have arisen are not due to doctrinal discord."

The Board of Directors herewith declares anew its confidence in the doctrinal trustworthiness of the Faculty and of the loyalty of its members and of the members of the Board of Directors to the plan of government and to the traditional fidelity of the Seminary to the Church and its standards.

4. That the Board of Directors expects the members of the Faculty to work together on the basis of this assertion by the Board of the trustworthiness and loyalty of every member of the Faculty.

5. That it is expected by the Board that every member of the Faculty will be able and willing to go on with his work on the basis of an acceptance of these positions of the Board of Directors and of whatever other action the Board may take in seeking to carry out the mandate of the General Assembly:

"To proceed immediately to compose the differences in the Seminary and to make a full report on these instructions to the next General Assembly."

October 17, 1928

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October 17, 1928

Rev. William I. McKean, D.D.
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 Dr. J. M. T. Pinnery
 Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D.D.,
 President E. D. Warfield,

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Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

October 19, 1928.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Bobby:

Since the meeting of the Board of Directors on October 9th last, I have had interviews with Mr. Synnott and with John McDowell. I do not know that I made any impression upon either of these men in my endeavors to open their minds a little more widely and a little more hospitably toward the present situation. This much, however, I did discover, namely, that the presentation to the Board of Trustees of the simple proposition of one Board control, said Board to be constituted of the present governing Boards without what Dr. McDowell characterizes as a gentleman's agreement as to procedure if and when such a Board of control is established, is not likely to get very far.

Furthermore, if there are to^{be} associated with this general proposition any provisos, it would seem better that we should present whatever we deem just and fair and likely to be received sympathetically by the Trustees than to have counter propositions presented to us. I ask your consideration of these sub-sidiary propositions:

1. That all officers of both the existing Boards resign and that at the initial election no such officer accept election to the corresponding position in the new Board.

2. That all Board Committees, standing and special, shall terminate their services and that no one of the chairmen of said Committees shall be appointed chairman of the corresponding committee in the new Board.

3. That the present administration shall be continued in office by the new Board and be recognized as having the right without any formal action to this effect to an unhampered opportunity to function under the new Charter and Plan and with the hearty and loyal support of the new Board.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

-2-

4. That Dr. Machen be permitted to withdraw his acceptance of the Chair of Apologetics.

5. That the proposed new Board if and when constituted of the membership of the present Boards is to function under a Charter which will be entirely satisfactory to the present Board of Trustees in so far as its safeguarding clauses are concerned & under a new plan which has already received the enthusiastic approval of almost the entire Board of Trustees with the exception of some minor amendments, all of which amendments, however, are so far as the Group of Six can judge constructive and along the administrative lines wholly acceptable to the Trustees.

Please give me your reactions on the above.

Every affectionately yours,

Lewis S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

clear away the past and secure a new era of
honesty and confidence. I have this as much as I can
do to feel that the conference is an end in itself
— for this.

October 17, 1928

Rev. William L. McMan, D.D.;
Rev. John B. Laird, D.D.
Dr. J. W. T. Finney
Rev. Lewis S. Hodge, D.D.
President A. D. Warfield.

Dear Friends;

At the last meeting of the Group, after the communications from the Faculty had been presented and there had been general discussion, I was instructed to put into written form a statement of what appeared to be the consensus of opinion of the Group. I have endeavored to do so in the statement attached to this letter as a postscript. I am not at all sure that I have succeeded in carrying out my instructions and should be very grateful if you will make any corrections or suggestions.

Very sincerely yours,

W. L. F.

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The Group expresses its deep regret at this situation. It has earnestly hoped that the Faculty would be able to agree upon some brotherly and harmonious statement which would express regret for the things said and done, which may have contributed to create the conditions of the past, and that whatever might have seemed to any member of the Faculty unjust or untrue might have been withdrawn and that a general spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation and mutual confidence might have come to prevail. If, however, there are some members of the Faculty who do not feel that they can conscientiously make these avowals, it is not within the province of the Group to go further in the matter of pressing for such statements.

The Group believes, however, that it is within its province and its duty to recommend to the Board of Directors;

1. That all the members of the Faculty be advised that there ^{must} be no public criticism by any member of the Faculty or any fellow member of the Faculty, or of any of the Boards of the Seminary.

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Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

October 19, 1928.

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Bobby:

I have your letter of October 17th, addressed also to the other members of the Group of Six.

Your letter of October 18th has also reached me and I have noted its last paragraph in which you indicate your feeling that possibly the statement you have transmitted for our approval is a little too vigorous. I cannot say that at the moment I agree with you. I read your letter yesterday afternoon including the statement prepared by you at the request of the Group of Six for transmission to the Faculty and again this morning and again this afternoon. The more I examine it the better I am pleased with it. If this was the first approach of the Group of Six to the Faculty, I would say that undoubtedly the tone of your statement was unnecessarily rigorous. It seems to me that less rigour than that now contained by this statement will lead the Faculty to wrong conclusions concerning their relationship to the present situation. Unfortunately, there are members of the Faculty who do not seem to appreciate that they are subject to the control of the Board of Directors so long as they remain members of the Faculty.

Very regretfully I have been compelled to reach the conclusion that the Board of Directors, if they are to obey the edict of the General Assembly "to proceed immediately to compose the differences in the Seminary", must deal firmly and if need be vigorously with recalcitrant members of the Faculty. The statement prepared by you, therefore, has my wholehearted approval. I have but one suggestion to make—that the following words be added to recommendation 1, making the recommendation read as follows: "That all the members of the Faculty be advised that there should be no public criticism by any member of the Faculty of any fellow member of the Faculty, or ~~either~~ of the Boards of the Seminary or any individual officer or member thereof."

Every affectionately yours,

L. S. Mudge
Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

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Paul, Leni & Margot, Inc.,
Lithograph Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

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Your letter of the 18th with regard to the petition, that might be
based upon with the Board of Trustees in connection with the proposed to amend
the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors in one has been received.

I am suggesting that we commit our future Committee of
 course it be elected and I should think it would be well to have a complete
 set of new chairmen, although this too might seem a little extreme to some
 of the chairmen, and yet the proposition would seem to be equitable as it
 would apply equally to the two present Boards.

The proposal that it should be agreed that the present administration should be continued and given a fair opportunity to function under the new arrangements with the hearty support of the Board would be altogether acceptable to me. I have not seen the evidence which others say is so abundant and convincing that Dr. Stevenson lacks the administrative capacity that is required. As you know I should wish to see him confirmed at present but you know what the strong feeling of others is and I don't know whether we can secure such a stipulation or this. Perhaps we could over a period of years but I am not sure. Such a stipulation would of course be directly contrary to the last paragraph of the last paper presented to us by the majority of the Faculty.

Dr. Nathan is willing to go on harmoniously with all, under the management if adopted in the work of the Seminary. I am not sure that he will render his best service in his present position. He might be more effective as his teaching could be extended here might be more effective in either place. I am not sure that he is well fitted for the popular work that should be our basis of the Seminary in the future.

Your fifth and last stipulation I judge will be met in advance by assurances acceptable to both the present Board.

I trust that the majority of the Trustees will recognize that neither they nor the majority of the Directors should regard the present negotiations as a battle in which the majority of one Board must defeat, or be defeated, by the majority of the other Board. We are ordered to compose the difficulties in the Seminary, and I judge that that does not mean that the tiger must eat the lady; the tiger being whichever majority you wish.

The representatives of the majority of the Directors and the Group of Six have been very fair and earnest and I hope we can find some path that will be acceptable both to them and to the majority of the Directors.

Ever affectionately yours,

L. S/B

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

October 25, 1928.

RECEIVED

OCT 26 1928

Mr. Speer

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX.

Dear Brethren:

Since the meeting of the Board of Directors on October 9th last, I have had without seeking them favorable opportunities for informal conferences with members of the Board of Trustees of the Seminary. It is, of course, a difficult matter to transmit to others accurately the viewpoint of those whom one may have had the opportunity to consult informally, and therefore, I trust that each member of our Group as he reads this letter will understand that the undersigned may be incorrect in the impressions which he has received.

He has a growing conviction that the Board of Trustees as a whole are pretty thoroughly committed to the recommendations of the Committee of Eleven as made to the last General Assembly so far as they relate to the method of constituting a new Board of control. It would seem, therefore, the part of wisdom for us in advocating one Board control, said Board to be constituted by uniting the present Boards, to fortify said recommendation with such co-ordinate recommendations as will make it as difficult as possible for the Board of Trustees to refuse to operate with the Board of Directors in its announced purpose of requesting the General Assembly to establish one Board control in Princeton Seminary, said Board to be composed of the two existing Boards.

Furthermore, it seems to the undersigned that our Group will occupy a much stronger position as they confer with the Board of Trustees if they advance such co-ordinate recommendations than if they put themselves in the position of waiting counter or qualifying propositions. I would, therefore, ask your careful consideration of the following as worthy of consideration at our meeting on Monday morning, November 12th, at 10 o'clock in the Old Oratory.

1. That all officers of both the two existing Boards resign and that at the initial election no officer will accept election to the corresponding office in the new Board

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
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STATED CLERK

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PHILADELPHIA, PA.

-2-

I am not so sure as some appear to be that the Officers of the Board of Trustees are as ready to retire from office as are the officers of the Board of Directors. As I understand the necessary procedure, said procedure will be that the present Board of Trustees will elect to membership the present Board of Directors and thus the new Board will be officially constituted. This would leave in Office the present officers of the Board of Trustees, unless there was a prearrangement to the contrary.

2. That all Board Committees, Standing and Special, shall terminate their services if and when the new Board is constituted, and that no one of the chairmen of said Committees shall be appointed chairman of the corresponding committee in the new Board. Again permit me to say that I am not so sure as some seem to be that without prearrangement all the Chairmen of the existing Board of Trustees' Committees would willingly fall in with this plan.

3. That the present administration shall be continued in office by the new Board and be recognized as having the adherent right without any formal action to this effect to an unhampered opportunity to function under the new Charter and Plan and with the hearty and loyal support of the new Board.

4. That the newly constituted Board be given the opportunity of electing professors for ^{all} chairs now vacant in the Seminary, including the Chair of Apologetics and the Helena Chair of Old Testament Literature. I make this suggestion because personally I am not absolutely certain that Dr. Machen should be allowed to withdraw his acceptance of the Chair of Apologetics. It may be that to allow him to withdraw his acceptance is wise, but unless it is made perfectly clear that he withdraws without pressure being brought upon him in any way whatever and that his withdrawal is a distinctly personal and isolated act, we may do well to give the matter careful consideration before reaching a final conclusion.

As to the election of Dr. Allis to the Helena Chair,

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there is first of all the question whether he ever was legally elected to this Chair in view of the alleged fact that he was elected by the bare constitutional majority of sixteen votes one of which votes was cast by one who, not being a ruling elder, had no constitutional right to membership in the Board. Furthermore, there is a widely held opinion that Dr. Allis should succeed Dr. Robert Dick Wilson and at an early date Dr. Wilson retiring or being retired, and that Dr. Allis with all his many gifts is not the type of man best suited for the responsibilities of the Helena Chair.

5. That the proposed new Board if and when constituted, as voted at the last meeting of the Board of Directors, is to function under a Charter which will be entirely satisfactory to both the present Boards and under a new Plan which has already received the warm approval of almost the entire Board of Trustees, excepting some minor amendments thereto, which amendments, however, are, so far as the Group of Six can judge, constructive and along administrative lines wholly acceptable to the Trustees.

The above is respectfully submitted to the members of the Group of Six as being worthy, at least, of being made a basis for conference at the next meeting of the Group.

With every good wish, believe me

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Group Secretary.

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

October 29, 1928

TO THE GROUP OF SIX

Dear Brethren:

The undersigned was requested to obtain from the Honorable Edward L. Katzenbach a statement of his reasons for believing that a general legislative act must be obtained if amendments are to be secured to the charter of Princeton Seminary.

I enclose herewith a copy of Mr. Katzenbach's letter written to me under date of October 26th.

With kind regards, believe me

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

Wm L. McEwan

Third Presbyterian Church,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

October 31, 1928.

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Board of Foreign Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City, N. Y.

My Dear Dr. Speer:

I am obliged to you for sending me a second copy of your letter to the members of the Group in which you have included the form of statement proposed to be presented by the Group to the Board of Directors.

In the second paragraph of the preliminary statement to the recommendations, there are sentences that I think could be improved. It seems to me it would be better for us to express our regret at the situation, and at our inability to form a statement that would receive the endorsement and signature of each member of the Faculty. In your statement you express our regret that members of the Faculty have declared their inability to sign the paper stating their willingness to "withdraw" whatever might have seemed to any member of the Faculty unjust or untrue. You will recall that certain members of the Faculty, of whom Dr. Greene was one, said they could not conscientiously sign such a statement, but that they would sign any paper that did not require them to "withdraw" and which pledged them to live in peace. There were two other forms of statement presented which also were inadequate. I think there would be less distress of mind for the members of the Faculty, if our expression of regret were made general, without reference to any particular statements in the forms sent to them. Personally, I would have no hesitation in signing the first paper we sent to the Faculty. I realize, however, that these are all men of high honor and sensitive spirits, who are suffering daily, and earnestly desirous of finding a way of reconciliation. They have been greatly chastened. They do not sit in our councils. They are very sensitive. If, therefore, there is any way by which the Group and the Board of Directors can accomplish that which they hope by being considerate and gracious without lessening their firmness and authority, I would rather do it.

In the first recommendation, I suggest that instead of saying "there should be no public criticism, etc.", we say "there must be no public criticism".

I would omit Section 4 as being included sufficiently in No. 5.

I had a very happy day at Princeton when I preached there recently and was the guest of Dr. Stevenson, and the pleasure of my stay in Princeton was increased by the friendship and fellowship of Dr. Stevenson and his gracious wife.

I am writing this note to you in the confidence of your brotherly love and in the knowledge that in spirit and in our desire to manifest our spirit, we are very much in harmony.

Your friend truly,

William L. McEwan

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

November 14, 1928.

RECEIVED

NOV 15 1928

Mr. Speer

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Bobby:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter I have received from Dr. Luccock also a suggested reply. In view of your associations with me in obtaining Mr. Katzenbach's opinion, I do not deem it wise to answer Dr. Luccock without obtaining from you a full expression of what you think my reply should be.

Ever affectionately yours,

Lewis S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD NOV 16 1928

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

Mr. Speer

November 15, 1928.

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX.

Dear Brethren:

Please note that the next meeting of the Group of Six is now appointed for the Old Oratory, Princeton, Thursday, December 13th, at 10.00 A.M. There will be a special meeting of the Board of Directors that afternoon at 2 P.M. for the purpose of receiving a further report from our Group. The meetings of the Board and of the Group tentatively planned for Tuesday, December 4th, have been abandoned because of the inability of a considerable number of the Board of Directors to be present at a Board meeting called for that date.

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Group Secretary

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

November 17, 1928.

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

RECEIVED

NOV 19 1928

Mr. Speer

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Bobby:

I have your letter of November 16th, with its enclosures. In accordance with your request I am returning these.

I cannot understand why it is that again documents sent from this Office to you and which Mr. Barraclough assures me he is certain left this Office have failed to reach you. I will see that you have a copy of Miss Spencer's pamphlet at Chicago. Unfortunately our extra copies are now enroute in our official trunk which we shipped yesterday.

I am glad to know that you are to have a talk with Dr. John McDowell. I cannot understand where he obtained the idea that as a Group of Six we were on behalf of the Board of Directors determined to block "the right of the Board of Trustees to amend the charter". Certainly we have no such intention.

Ever affectionately yours,

Lewis S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

LAW OFFICES
E. J. & J. W. FOX
309 EASTON TRUST COMPANY BUILDING
EASTON, PA.

MS

EDWARD J. FOX
EDWARD J. FOX, JR.

November 13, 1928

JAMES W. FOX
1896-1924

Rev. Dr. Robert H. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I was very much disappointed, I will even say disgusted, that the Board of Trustees took the action they did yesterday. I found when I arrived at the meeting they had evidently laid all their plans and had the votes necessary to carry them out. The Conference Committee before you came submitted a report which was strongly against approving the plan of the committee of six. I cannot understand how the moving appeal which was made to them by you and Dr. McEwan and Dr. Mudge should have been disregarded.

As I told you when you were in Easton, I fully realized that nothing I could say could have any effect because I am regarded as "too sympathetic" with the Board of Directors. I think the moving spirit is Dr. McDowell. I enclose herewith a copy of a letter which he sent to Mr. McCarter and Mr. McCarter in turn sent the letter to me. From this you will see what his attitude is. I think Dr. Mudge could probably influence Mr. Pugh, but unless you can find some way to point out to the other members of the Board the error of their ways, I feel that peace and harmony cannot be brought about. It is idle for them to say that there is no hostility on

E. J. & J. W. Fox

Rev. Dr. Robert H. Speer

- 2 -

November 13, 1928

the part of the Board of Directors.

I am with much regard,

Yours sincerely,

E. J. & J. W. Fox

EJF:HP

(C O P Y)

The Theological Seminary of The
Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
Princeton, New Jersey

John McDowell, D.D., Secretary
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City

October 31, 1928

Mr. Robert H. McCarter
Prudential Building
Newark, New Jersey

My dear Mr. McCarter:

You will find enclosed a copy of an opinion that Attorney General Katzenbach has given to the Board of Directors relative to the amending of the Charter of Princeton Theological Seminary. Since this opinion differs from the one which you gave the Board of Trustees and the Committee of Eleven, I am sending it to you with the request that you inform us as to whether there is any ground for Attorney General Katzenbach's interpretation of the process of amending the Charter of the Seminary.

You ought to know that the Board of Directors are determined to block, if possible, the right of the Board of Trustees to amend the Charter as suggested by you to us. As a layman, it appears to me that Attorney General Katzenbach has based his opinion purely on a case presented to him by the Directors and not on the original charter, the deeds of trust, and the actual functions performed by the Board of Trustees, and the general law of New Jersey relative to amending charters.

I would appreciate it greatly if you would give me your reaction to this request not later than Tuesday of next week.

Thanking you in advance for the favor, I am, as
always,

Very sincerely yours,

John McDowell

JMcD:MEL

November 16, 1928

Hon. E. J. Fox,
309 Easton Trust Company Building
Easton, Pa.

My dear Judge Fox:

Your kind letter is just received. It was a great pleasure to see you at the meeting of the Board of Trustees and to hear your just and convincing speech. Dr. Mudge has sent word that after our Committee from the Directors had withdrawn our proposal was taken from the table and acted upon, but we have not yet heard from him what action was taken.

We must not despair even now of working out a harmonious and reasonable adjustment even though the way seems very dark.

I am very much obliged for the copy of Dr. McDowell's letter to Mr. McFarter and I shall take the first opportunity of having a full talk with Dr. McDowell over the whole matter.

Dr. McDowell is quite mistaken in thinking that "the Board of Directors are determined to block, if possible the right of the Board of Trustees to amend the Charter," at least as far as any purpose or thought of our Group is concerned I know of no contrary determination on the part of the Board. As we stated to the Board of Trustees our Group has reached no conclusion whatever as to legal processes. We are ready to leave all that matter to legal judgment and to the wise and temperate consideration of means and methods when once we have come to a general agreement. Our conference with the Attorney General was not at all for the purpose of offsetting any other opinion. We went to him merely because we had heard that he had expressed a judgment that the two Boards could not be merged in one and inasmuch as that was the proposition on which we were working we felt that we were warranted and obligated to make sure that no such barrier as had been intimated would stand in our way.

It may be that we cannot find any peaceful solution and that matter will have to go back to the coming General Assembly without any proper reconciliation and adjustment, but we must still hope that a better and more way can be found.

Our Group will have another meeting early in December.

With warm regard,

Very sincerely yours,

RFB

Edward J. Fox

LAW OFFICES
E. J. & J. W. FOX
309 EASTON TRUST COMPANY BUILDING
EASTON, PA.

November 17, 1928

EDWARD J. FOX
EDWARD J. FOX, JR.

JAMES W. FOX
1896-1924

NOV 19 1928

Mr. Speer

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Speer,

158 Fifth Avenue,

New York, N. Y.

My dear Doctor Speer:

Dr. Laird was here yesterday and showed me a copy of the Resolution of the Board of Trustees, adopted after we left. Incidentally, this action was taken after Dr. McDowell left. This may or may not be significant.

The Attorney-General was at Lafayette yesterday, and I had a very satisfactory talk with him. I am persuaded that the only safe course to pursue is that indicated in his opinion, because it will eliminate the possibility of any legal difficulty arising in the future.

I am quite sure that we will ultimately succeed by proceeding along the lines indicated by your group.

Yours very truly,

Edward J. Fox

EJF/IH

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

November 17, 1928

RECEIVED

NOV 19 1928

Mr. Speer

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Bobby:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 16th. I will gladly amend my letter to Dr. Lubcock in accordance with your most helpful suggestions.

I note your amendations in connection with the Minutes of the Group Conference No. 6, of November 12th, and will take pleasure in correcting the Minutes in accordance therewith.

I will see that Judge Bruce's letter is duly incorporated in the officially approved copy of the Minutes of the Group of Six for November 12th.

Ever affectionately yours,

L. S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

November 17, 1928.

RECEIVED

NOV 19 1928

Mr. Speer

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Bobby:

Enclosed please find a copy of my letter to
Dr. Luccock concerning the final draft of which I asked your
advice.

Ever affectionately yours,

L. S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

November 17, 1928

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Rev. George W. Luccock, D.D.,
1246 Beall Ave.,
Rooster, C.

Dear Dr. Luccock:

I have your letter of November 13th and am grateful to you for your inquiries. It is a pleasure to reply to them with the same directness and frankness as characterizes your questions.

Mr. Katzenbach's opinion was obtained by Dr. Robert M. Speer and myself. We went to see Mr. Katzenbach at his private office in Trenton by appointment and with the knowledge and approval of the Group of Six of the Board of Directors. We and others had heard that he had stated that one Board control for Princeton Seminary was not legally a possibility. Dr. Speer and I have both known Mr. Katzenbach since college days and our approach to him was on a personal rather than on an official basis. Our sole purpose in consulting him was to find out just what he did think and just what he had said if anything. We had no purpose whatever in mind as members of the Group of Six or as individuals than to find out the facts. For all we knew he would present an opinion to us in every way supporting the opinions of those whose advice the Committee of Eleven was following. When we found that Mr. Katzenbach's opinion actually was, instead of keeping it to ourselves and springing it at some moment which would serve in some ulterior way the purposes of those who wish to introduce confusion into our councils, we at once shared it with the Board of Directors, with the President and Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Seminary and with Dr. Thompson, Chairman of the General Assembly's Committee and with his approval with all the members of the Committee of Eleven.

As far as the Group of Six is concerned, we are interested solely in getting at the facts in the case. His opinion as my covering letter indicated is given by Mr. Katzenbach in his private capacity and not as the Attorney General, and it ought

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

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EXECUTIVE HEAD

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GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOND BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

-3-

of what is the legal method of securing amendments to the Charter of Princeton Seminary. Let us find out this beyond peradventure of a doubt now well in advance of the next General Assembly and then we will not have to face this question on the floor of the Assembly. Nothing will make for peace more than this. In my judgment the report of the General Assembly's Committee on Princeton Seminary never received full and satisfactory presentation at the last Assembly, and the reason was that the time was occupied in the main by a debate between the opposing views, as to legal facts and procedure.

Let us get these matters settled now. If the General Assembly's Committee on Princeton Seminary knows the answers to Mr. Katzenbach's contentions that will be fine. If on the other hand the counsel consulted by the General Assembly's Committee has overlooked some point of New Jersey law, surely said Committee ought to rejoice that this opinion has been brought to its attention now when with plenty of time available the whole matter may be examined and conclusions of unquestionable validity reached.

In conclusion permit me to add that I wish that you and every member of the Committee of Eleven could attend the meetings of our Group of Six and could obtain first hand knowledge of our efforts as a Group to find the way of true peace and right. We are most earnestly endeavoring to face any questions which we now are still vital and are endeavoring impartially to find the answers thereto in the interests of harmonious and cooperative action. As yet as a Group we have decided nothing except - first, that there must be peace in the Faculty, and second, that we wish to unite all forces in an effort to secure one efficient, loyal and faithful Board of Direction for Princeton Seminary.

I most earnestly hope that this somewhat lengthy letter will remove from your mind the evident misapprehensions which you entertained in writing. If it does not accomplish this end please to write me again.

With every good wish, believe me

Yours sincerely,

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

November 26, 1928.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX.

Dear Brethren:

Enclosed please find copy of a letter just received from Thomas E. D. Bradley, Esq., a member of the General Assembly's Committee on Princeton Seminary.

With kind regards, believe me

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Group Secretary

(COPY)

BRADLEY, WILLIAMS & HARPER
19 S. La Salle Street,
Chicago

November 22, 1928.

Rev. Lewis S. Mudge D.D.,
514 Witherspoon Bldg.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Dr. Mudge:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated November 8th enclosing a copy of an opinion by the Attorney General of New Jersey to the effect that the statute of New Jersey authorizing charitable and religious institutions to amend their charters is not available to the Theological Seminary at Princeton as recommended by the Honorable Robert W. McCarter, formerly Attorney General of New Jersey and reported by the Committee of Eleven to the General Assembly. Allow me to thank you for it although I feel quite fed upon legal opinions regarding Princeton Seminary and regret to be compelled to say that I think this latest one is both unfortunate and unpersuasive. This is the third legal opinion sent to me since the adjournment of the Assembly procured by the board of directors or by individual members of the board (one of them perhaps by the faculty) with the apparent purpose of discrediting the report of the Assembly's Committee or the counsel retained by it. This opinion seems to me the least persuasive of them all because it relates to a question which has received the attention of the courts so many times that I think it should be considered as settled. The opinion cites no authorities and seems to me to disregard or overlook the definitions expressed in numerous decisions some of which are regarding as leading cases. Examples of them are the case of The Library of Philadelphia in which the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania expressly held that a library is "an educational institution"; the case of the County Treasurer vs. the Archbishop of Cincinnati, in which the property held in trust by the Archbishop for the benefit of schools was adjudged by the Supreme Court of Ohio to be exempt from taxation. I think the decisions in the Girard College cases, the Bryn Mawr College case, the Crear Library case and other similar cases are controlling.

If the Attorney General in his private capacity really believes that the corporation known as The Trustees of the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church does not exist for charitable purposes, or does not come within the definition of an educational or charitable institution or, notwithstanding the distinctly charitable trusts committed to it and which it is authorized to administer and has under its powers administered for more than a hundred years, that it is not a "charitable or educational corporation" then it seems to me it is his clear duty in his official capacity to investigate and see if there may not be considerable amount of back taxes due from the corporation to the State of New Jersey. (I am assuming that the property of charitable institutions is exempt from taxation in New Jersey as in other states and that the board of trustees of Princeton Seminary has not paid taxes upon the property owned by it)

Perhaps, being a member of the committee, I should not participate in the controversy but I assure you that, like the Attorney General, I am saying this to you in my private capacity as a mere lawyer. I fear that if I am wrong on this a couple of thousand lawyers have been led astray by my teaching. Probably a hundred of them are or have been judges throughout the west and middle west and I fear the erroneous teaching has become imbedded in some of our law out here.

But, my dear Dr. Mudie, I know you have plenty of troubles of your own and instead of prolonging the discussion I ought to be spending the time praying for you. This I do most earnestly at times. However, I have had great confidence in your wisdom every since we served together on the Executive Commission during the deflation period of the Inter-Church World Movement and some day when you have time it would interest me greatly if you in your private capacity would tell me how in your judgment the directors of Princeton Seminary expect to "compose the differences" there by spending money to promote differences among lawyers.

With sincere appreciation and cordial regard,

Faithfully yours,

Thomas E. D. Bradley.

P.S.-- Pardon me once more. There may be excellent reasons for the board of directors seeking the opinion of the Attorney General. It may be that they honestly believe there is no other equally capable lawyer in the state. But unless some satisfactory explanation appears the hard boiled lawyers in the Assembly are most likely to conclude that they have followed the tactics of the children of this world who take their claims to the State's Attorney to collect. The State's Attorney, of course, prosecutes civil cases in his private capacity but his letter head bearing his official title is counted upon to "throw a scare into" the delinquents.

RECEIVED

DEC 12 1928

Mr. Speer

C. E. Macartney
First Presbyterian Church
Sixth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dec. 10, 1928.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York.

Dear Dr. Speer;

I thought you might be interested in some impressions I received during a ten days' visit at Princeton, when I preached in the Chapel and delivered the Stone Lectures.

1. I am convinced that the chief objective at present is to preserve the integrity of the Board of Directors. Our difficulties as to the administration of the Seminary, and personal relationships in the Faculty, will right themselves in the course of time! I feel that a merger of the Board of Directors, either on the basis of the Thompson Committee plan, or of the recent proposal by the Directors to the Board of Trustees, would work great injury to the cause of Princeton.

2. The legal opinions, which we have reason to trust, indicate that the legislature of New Jersey would not pass an act providing for a new charter if there should be opposition on the part of those now entrusted with the government of the Seminary. Even if the present Board of Directors were dissolved by the abrogation of the plan by the General Assembly, the Board would hold over until the enabling act had been passed by the legislature. Therefore, individual members of the Board of Directors, or the Board as a whole, would have the opportunity to protest.

3. The legal opinion of the Attorney General of New Jersey seems to intimate that the present plan would have to be abrogated by a two thirds majority vote in the Assembly.

4. In view of these legal obstacles, making a merger impossible, save by practically unanimous consent, I feel we ought to abandon that idea altogether and proceed as follows:-

First Presbyterian Church

Sixth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa.

2.

a. Reconsider the action of the last meeting of the Board and the proposal to the Board of Trustees.

b. Elect strong men to the chairs now vacant.

c. Ask the Assembly for a change in the plan whereby the President of the Seminary sits as a member of both Boards.

d. Ask the Assembly for a change in the plan so that the clause about the trustees "approving" elections, and appointments by the Directors shall be clearly interpreted to mean that they shall approve the salaries provided the funds are at hand.

e. Make a strong and optimistic report to the Assembly, pointing out the exaggeration of the difficulties; then showing the large enrollment of students, and how the work of the Seminary has gone steadily forward.

5. If these things are carried out, I do not see how any Assembly could reject such a report. My impression was that already time has healed somewhat the breach in the Faculty.

Faithfully yours,

J. P. Mearns

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

December 18, 1928.

RECEIVED

DEC 19 1928

Mr. Speer

TO THE BOARD OF MI. GROUP OF SIX.

Dear Brethren:

A meeting of the Group of Six is called for Monday, December 31st, at 10.30 A.M. in the Old Oratory, Princeton, N. J. As a member of the Group your presence is urged as plans will be considered to carry into effect the directions given the Group as to further procedure at the last meeting of the Board of Directors.

The Conference Committee of the Board of Trustees authorized by said Board at its last meeting has been invited to meet with the Group of Six at an early hour in the afternoon of Monday, December 31st.

Wishing you and yours a Happy Christmas and New Year,

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Mudge
Lewis S. Mudge
Group Secretary

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

December 18, 1928.

RECEIVED

DEC 19 1928

Mr. Speer

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I am returning herewith Judge M. Linn Bruce's letter
to you of October 24th, which you sent me under date of
November 16th.

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Mudge
Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

M. Linn Bruce

RECEIVED

OCT 26 1928

Mr. Speer

M. LINN BRUCE
68 WILLIAM STREET
NEW YORK

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October 24th, 1928.

Robert E. Speer, D. D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:-

I trust that the Board of Trustees of the Seminary will join with the Board of Directors in the plan for a single Board of Control. While I am still of the opinion that the new Board should be constituted in the first instance in the manner proposed by the Committee of Eleven and that the consolidation of the two present Boards may result in a Board too large and with the hazard of continued conflict, still the adoption of a single Board of Control secures the vital principle involved. A reduction in numbers, if found desirable, can easily be brought about. Time will change the personnel and thus eliminate conflicting elements. I feel that the Trustees have an opportunity to do a great service. I feel that we should forget the things that are behind and press forward to what seems to be essential for the welfare of the Seminary.

Cordially yours,

M. Linn Bruce

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Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DEC 20 1928

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

Mr. Speer
STATED CLERK

December 19, 1928.

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Bobby:

I have your letter of December 18th, enclosing a copy of a letter addressed by you to Dr. McEwan, Chairman of the Group of Six and dated December 18th. I thank you for sending me this letter which very fully and accurately expresses my own mind in the matter. Enclosed please find copy of letter which I have written to Dr. McEwan.

Ever affectionately yours,

L. S. Mudge
Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RECEIVED
EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

December 19, 1928.

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Rev. William L. McEwan, D.D.,
906 S. Negely Ave.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Mr. McEwan:

Dr. Robert E. Speer has been so kind as to send me a copy of his letter to you dated December 18th, in which he presents to you very fully his judgment with reference to the appointments made by Dr. Maitland Alexander to the Group of Six, namely, Dr. Craig vice Dr. Warfield resigned and Dr. Macartney vice Dr. Finney resigned, and what he fears will be the resulting situation with reference to further procedure under the guidance of the Group of Six.

I write to say that Dr. Speer expresses very fully and very accurately my own feelings in this matter.

With warmest regards and best wishes to you and yours for a Happy Christmas and New Year, believe me

Yours sincerely,

Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

Lewis S. Mudge

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

DEC 20 1928 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Mr. Speer
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

December 19, 1928

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SIX:

Dear Brethren:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter forwarded this day to Rev. John McDowell, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Princeton Seminary, in response to his request for information as to the topics likely to be considered at our conference with the Committee of the Trustees Monday afternoon December 31st, at 2:30 P.M.

As these same topics are those which will in all likelihood be before our Group for consideration that morning at our meeting appointed for 10:30 A. M. in the Old Oratory, I am using this letter to Dr. McDowell as a means of fulfilling my duty as secretary in providing a docket for our meeting that morning.

With best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year, believe me

Yours sincerely,

L. S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Group Secretary

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD

REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.

STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE

514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

December 19, 1928

Rev. John McDowell, D.D., Secretary,
Board of Trustees,
Princeton Theological Seminary,
New York City.

Dear Dr. McDowell:

With reference to the conference planned for Monday afternoon December 31st, next, will you be so kind as to inform those who will represent the Trustees at said conference:

1. That the enclosed is a copy of the report of the Group of Six adopted at the meeting of the Board of Directors December 13th, last. I am enclosing sufficient copies for distribution by you to the members of the Committee of the Trustees.

2. That the Group of Six will be prepared to report as to the answers received from the letter addressed by the Board of Directors to the Faculty. The substance of the letter is to be found in the report herewith enclosed.

3. If the members of your Committee will each bring with him a copy of the charter and plan as proposed to the last General Assembly by the General Assembly's Committee on Princeton Seminary, we will indicate what changes in said plan and what modification of said charter we as a Group of Six have to suggest.

4. Conference should also be had as to the form in which the questions of legal procedure in connection with the obtaining of a charter should be submitted to the General Assembly's Committee that it may take steps to lead us all in their solution.

I think the above will indicate that we have ample to occupy us when your Committee and our Group meet.

Wishing you and yours a Happy Christmas and
New Year,

Yours sincerely,

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

December 28, 1928


GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Bobby:

Your letter of December 22d, is received. Also a letter addressed to you under date of December 19th, by Dr. J. Ross Stevenson, which I herewith return. This letter certainly is much to the point and makes very clear the difficulties we continue to face. However, I suppose there is nothing for us to do but to continue for the present in the hope that our trouble and conscientious effort to find a way out will be in due time rewarded.

Ever affectionately yours,


Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

December 19, 1928

My dear Robert:-

Replying to your letter of December 17th, I note your allusion to Dr. Craig's proposed substitute. Since he and Dr. Macartney have been placed on the "Group" to take the places of Drs. Warfield and Finney, evidently this substitute will be pressed and enough Directors won over to it to ensure its adoption by a majority vote.

Regarding the proposal, I may say, first, that the abridgment of the functions of the President gives him the status of the Chairman of the Faculty according to the old arrangement. This plan according to which the Senior Member of the Faculty served as Chairman and represented the Seminary before the church proved to be so unsatisfactory that on May 6, 1901 it was proposed "in the interests of efficiency" that a committee be appointed to confer with a similar committee of the Trustees and Faculty regarding a change in the plan. This resulted in action taken October 8, 1901 proposing a President, and subsequently a committee, consisting of Drs. Patton, Duffield and Baker and Messrs. Lanning and McCook, was appointed to nominate a President, and you can understand what the Directors contemplated when you recall that the man who was being considered for the place was Dr. W. H. Roberts. The Faculty, however, stole a march on the Nominating Committee of the Directors and by unanimous vote placed in nomination Dr. Patton. If the old regime is to be continued and no "efficiency in management" sought, what Dr. Craig proposes will serve to safeguard the orthodoxy of the institution and prevent anything in the way of progress.

I have no special wisdom as to whether the President should or should not be a member of the governing Board of an institution. I understand that Dr. Thompson advocated this in the Committee of Eleven but it was left an open question. So far as our Presbyterian Seminaries are concerned, the President is a member of the Board of Directors or Trustees in the following institutions: Auburn, Louisville, McCormick, Bloomfield, Lincoln, Omaha and Dubuque.

As to his second amendment to the Plan of the Seminary, involving the relation of the Directors and the Trustees, it is well to note that in 1870 the Joint Committee of the Old and New School bodies reported contrasting Seminaries administered by two Boards and those like Lane and Union administered by one, "by which the property is held and the general control of the Seminary is administered, certainly a simpler method by which all differences of opinion are avoided such as have arisen and are likely to arise in other Seminaries between two separate Boards, one of trust and the other of direction."

As you may know, following the reunion in 1870, at which time the Directors were given "immediate control" of the Seminary, the Trustees were so incensed by their overbearing attitude that they threatened to resign in a body. Among the Trustees were such men as Robert L. Stuart and James Lenox. It was necessary, therefore, to hold a joint meeting on December 22, 1870 at which an agreement was entered into whereby "acts

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

-2-

of the Directors affecting the finances of the institution must receive the approval of the Board of Trustees as a condition of their validity and binding force, and that the two bodies adopt such measures to secure conference and cooperation in such matters as they may deem expedient." There is not the faintest hope that the present Board of Trustees will consent to that abridgment of their powers contemplated in Dr. Craig's suggestions.

The mandate issued by the Directors over the signatures of Doctors Alexander and Frank Stevenson has been received. It raises a number of serious questions. Manifestly it is intended to ignore the past and all the contentions on which presumably the deliverance is based. If signed by the innocent it serves to insure protection for those who have been guilty of disturbing the peace of the Seminary. Should the Seminary's problems come out into the open at the next meeting of the Assembly, members of the Faculty will be obligated not to offer any word of personal criticism and important facts bearing upon the whole situation will be suppressed. The meeting of the Directors last week is an illuminating commentary on the utter futility of signed peace pacts. Practically all the Directors, with the exception of Dr. Craig, signed a statement, the intention of which was to wipe the slate clean and begin a new era of good understanding, harmony and cooperative effort, and yet the two wings of the Board were as far apart last Thursday as they have ever been. It seems strange that a large group of men, most of whom have been close friends in the years gone by, all of whom are loyal to the Standards of the Presbyterian Church and have hitherto been identified with the conservative party in the Church, cannot get together. The fact that they cannot is a clear indication that the real grounds of differences have not been frankly faced. Dr. Craig for the past two or three years in season and out of season has been insisting that the differences in the Seminary are doctrinal in their character. Apparently this is what a number of men in all honesty believe. The President has been attacked for a too "inclusive" policy. Dr. Erdman has been discredited as being "doctrinally indifferent". Now Dr. Craig changes his tactics and tries to make it appear that the troubles are administrative and immediately following this he places in nomination a reactionary and contentious elder in opposition to the one unanimously nominated by a duly appointed committee of the Board to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Perkins.

I note your allusion to the Chair of Homiletics, and I wonder if you were impressed by the seeming innocence and guilelessness of Dr. Ingles at the meeting of the Committee last Thursday. He professed to know nothing about Dr. Taliaferro Thompson and expressed a willingness to make investigations. He knows perfectly well that when a committee, consisting of Doctors Warfield, Laird, Marsh, Hodge and myself, was appointed to nominate someone for the new Chair of Religious Education and I presented correspondence showing that Dr. Thompson's name should be favorably considered, and this had also the endorsement of Mr. Symnott, who founded the Chair, Doctors Warfield, Laird and Hodge steadfastly refused to give his name any consideration, and then resigned because

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

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Mr. Marsh and I could not see our way clear to join in the nomination of Harold McAfee Robinson in opposition to Mr. Synnott's wishes. Another committee was then appointed of which Robert Ingles was a member. When I mentioned Dr. Thompson's name to this committee, Robert replied at once that he had made an investigation and had learned that Dr. Thompson is a liberal conservative, and he wanted it to be understood that he would never consent to the election of any man to a chair in Princeton Seminary who could be designated as being liberal in any particular. It is because of this situation in the Board of Directors that the General Assembly has wisely taken the action that it will not proceed to confirm any nominations pending the settlement of differences.

Frankly, let me say that I do not see any prospect whatsoever of securing, first, unanimity in the present Board of Directors regarding any name for a vacant chair, and secondly, of securing favorable consideration by any desirable man for a chair in the Seminary in the midst of all the confusion; and thirdly, of having the General Assembly take favorable action before all these matters are settled.

There is a great deal more I would like to say. I would covet the opportunity to set before you the proper ideals for the Seminary towards which we should work and the kind of a reorganization that is needed if Princeton Seminary is even to hold its own.

Appreciating your generous and patient interest, I am,

Affectionately yours,

Robt

Robert E. Speer, D.D.,

New York City.